Administration Report

Eastern Bengal and Assam.

1908-09 to 1914-15

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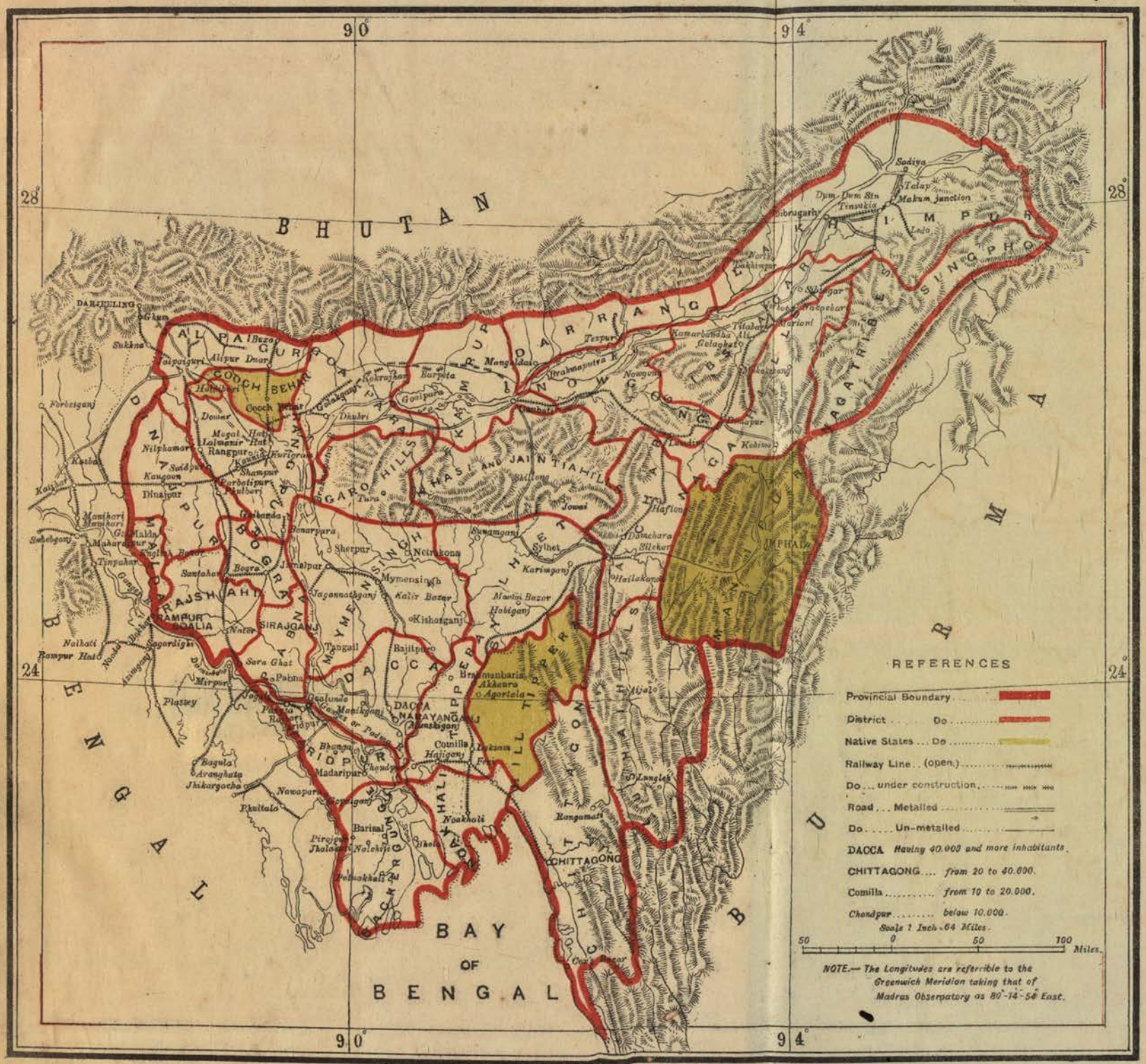
THE PROVINCE OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM



REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1908-1909.

SHILLONG :

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY

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GENERAL SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1908-1909.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

SIR LANCELOT HARE, K.C.S.I., went on leave on the 19th May 1908, making over charge of the Province to the Hon'ble Mr. Bayley, C.S.I.

Tours.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bayley, Officiating Lieutenant-Governor, left Shillong on his monsoon tour on the 6th July and arrived at Dacca on the 8th. During his stay at Dacca, His Honour received and replied to various addresses. His Honour left Dacca on the 2nd August and, after visiting Chittagong, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Tezpur and Jorhat, arrived at Gauhati on the 1st September. After a 3 days' halt there His Honour returned to Shillong on the 5th September.

On the 8th November Sir Charles Bayley left Shillong for Dacca where he was relieved by Sir Lancelot Hare on the 16th.

Sir Lancelot Hare left Dacca on the 28th November on a tour in North Bengal, in the course of which he visited Pabna, Dinajpur, Bogra, Rampur-Boalia and Nator, returning to Dacca on the 20th December. Besides the usual inspections His Honour received addresses from various bodies and replied to them.

In January 1909 His Honour visited Chittagong and Rangamati and on the 9th February went to Calcutta to attend the Investiture held by His Excellency the Viceroy at Government House. Whilst there, His Honour had a conference with the members of the Railway Board in connection with the railway requirements of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Early in March His Honour went to inspect the dredging operations that were in progress in the Madhumati river, paying Barisal a short visit *en route*.

His Honour finally returned to Shillong about the middle of April 1909.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

2. There were not many changes in the administration during the year under review. The most important were the creation of an additional post in the 2nd grade of District and Sessions Judges, the establishment of outlying criminal courts at Sibchar and Gopalganj in the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district, the reorganisation of the Forest Services sanctioned by the Secretary of State, which included the appointment of a second Conservator to take charge of the newly-constituted forest circle, and the opening of a new Provincial Forest Training School.

Changes in the Administration.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

3. The year under report was the second year of the administration of the State by the Raja and a Darbar, and the progress shown in the first year was well maintained. There was a satisfactory increase in the receipts from land revenue, education was extended among the hill tribes, and a scheme for supplying drinking water to Imphal was under consideration. The price of food-grains remained low but the absence of rain in the early part of the year had some effect on agriculture, while a very severe cholera epidemic caused serious loss of life. The Manipur Company imported Jersey and Kerry bulls and cows from England, in the hope of improving the breed of cattle.

Manipur.

Hill Tippera.

4. The year witnessed the death of Raja Radha Kishore Manikya Bahadur of Hill Tippera and the birth of a son to his successor Raja Birendra Kishore Manikya Bahadur. On the retirement of the Minister Rai Umakanta Das Bahadur, Babu Annada Charan Gupta, B.A., Deputy Magistrate, was appointed in his place with the title 'Chief Officer'. An advisory Darbar Council was also constituted. The year was one of considerable prosperity. There was an increase of over Rs. 2 lakhs in the gross income of the State, and bumper crops, good markets and a brisk export trade greatly improved the condition of the people both in the hills and in the plains.

Frontier Tribes.

5. Bhutias came down to the fair at Darranga in much greater numbers than in previous years. The conduct of these tribesmen when they visited British territory showed a great improvement, but the Daflas behaved on several occasions very badly. Among the Miris there was a growing tendency to resort to British officers for settlement of disputes. During the year the Assistant Political Officer went on tour in the Pasi-Minyong Abors' territory and paid a friendly visit to Kebang, receiving a hearty welcome from the people. The blockade of the Chulikata and Bebejiya Mishmis was maintained, but certain Chulikata villages were allowed to trade at Sadiya. In November and December the Assistant Political Officer toured in the Rangpang Naga territory and punished the village of Rashi for the raid of the previous year on the Sarkari Nagas. In the Naga Hills raiding, burning of villages and head-taking continued with undiminished vigour across the frontier, but the relations of these people with the British authorities were, on the whole, good. In the Garo Hills the agitation started by Sonaram was not relaxed, but the people have begun to lose faith in Sonaram himself, if not in his cause. An important work was undertaken during the year in the demarcation of the Garo Hills-Goalpara frontier. In the Lushai Hills the year politically was uneventful. The Military police guard at Sherkor effectually prevented any outrages on the frontier. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills the behaviour of the several Siems, with a few exceptions, was good, though boundary disputes between some of the States caused trouble, and strained relations continued to exist between the Siem of Khyrim and certain villages of his State.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the people.

6. Except in the Rajshahi Division where the failure of the rice crop caused some distress and necessitated the distribution of agricultural loans and the opening of tests relief works, the material condition of the people was slightly better than in the preceding year. The prices of food-grains, though appreciably lower than in 1907-1908, were still high, and this entailed hardship on persons with fixed incomes, while benefiting the cultivators of rice. A decrease in the number of beggars and a fall in the rate of interest were significant signs of recovery amongst the common people.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALIZATION OF THE REVENUE.

Realization of the revenue.

7. An increase in the number of permanently-settled and temporarily-settled estates was accompanied by an increased revenue demand, which amounted to nearly two crores of rupees. The percentage of collections (95·44) was higher, and the percentage of remissions (·23) lower than in any year since the province was constituted. In Eastern Bengal coercive measures for realisation of revenue were required in fewer cases and the law was very leniently administered. In Assam the amount of revenue that had to be realized by the sale of property was inconsiderable. Under miscellaneous land revenue there was a decline in demand and in collections, the decrease occurring under the head of recovery of survey and settlement charges. In Eastern Bengal a reduction of land registration work was accompanied by an improvement in disposal, but in Assam the results were not so good as in the preceding year. In Eastern Bengal fewer partition cases were disposed of, but the pending file decreased owing to a considerable reduction in the number of institutions. Under the Land Acquisition Act 1,216 acres of land were permanently acquired at a cost of nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, of which, approximately, one-half was on behalf of Government, one-third on behalf of Municipalities, District and Local Boards and one-sixth on account of

Railways. Proceedings relating to an area of 4,169 acres were pending at the close of the year, and an area of 126 acres was acquired for temporary occupation. Under the Land Improvement Loans Act advances amounting to Rs. 41,070 were made, as compared with one loan of Rs. 1,000 in the preceding year, while the amount advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act rose from Rs. 2·01 lakhs to Rs. 4·84 lakhs, owing to the scarcity prevailing in the Rajshahi Division.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and Settlements.

8. Traverse Survey parties were at work during the year in the Jalpaiguri, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Dacca districts, in each of which large areas were traversed. Cadastral survey and settlement operations on a large scale were continued in the Bakarganj, Faridpur, Jalpaiguri and Mymensingh districts. In Bakarganj the operations have been practically completed, the work of the year being confined to the settlement of revenue, the recovery of costs and the disposal of cases under the Tenancy Act. In Faridpur the field work of the three blocks has also been completed, and considerable progress made towards the completion of the records. In Jalpaiguri the cadastral survey of another block and *khanapuri* (the writing of the preliminary record) of the main portion of it were finished, and in Mymensingh the work consisted of cadastral survey, *khanapuri* and *bujharat* (revision of the preliminary record) of an area of 840 square miles. In addition to these operations settlements on a small scale were carried on under the supervision of District Officers in six other districts. In Assam, Nowgong and Darrang re-settlement operations were completed and progress was made with the work in Lakhimpur, while extension surveys were carried out by village recorders on a more or less extensive scale in every district.

LAND RECORDS.

Land Records.

9. The question of the maintenance of the record in Eastern Bengal is very important and has received great attention, but little progress has yet been made in arriving at a comprehensive scheme. An important step has been taken in Mymensingh, where local men have been recruited as patwaris in connection with the settlement proceedings with a view to train them and make them capable of taking up the work of maintaining the record after the completion of these proceedings. This will remedy the great defect in the present system in Eastern Bengal, *viz.*, the absence of a special staff. In Assam, which is temporarily-settled, the work is carried on by village recorders, who have nothing to do with the collection of revenue.

SETTLEMENTS FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlements for special cultivation.

10. The total area settled for special cultivation and the revenue assessed thereon increased slightly during the year. Land settled under these rules is usually devoted to the cultivation of tea, but one application was received for the settlement of a large area in the Chittagong district for the cultivation of cotton.

GOVERNMENT, WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Government Estates.

11. There were 1,572 Government estates in Eastern Bengal at the close of the year, as compared with 1,554 in the previous year, the number held under direct management being 1,411 against 1,392. An improvement in collections and a reduction in remissions have accompanied the increase in revenue demand. A satisfactory settlement of Char Mir Mahmad Ali in Noakhali was concluded during the year, and further progress was made in the colonisation work in the Sundarbans.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

12. The number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the close of the year was 48. There was an improvement in the payment of Government revenue and cesses but a decline in the payment on account of rents and cesses due to superior landlords. Collections of rent and cesses due to the estates were also less successful than in the previous year. Better results attended the use of the certificate procedure but the recovery of amounts decreed in civil suits was not very satisfactory.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

13. With the gradual extension of settlement operations and the preparation of records-of-rights, both landlords and tenants are beginning to acquire a better knowledge of the provisions of the Tenancy Act and the rights and responsibilities conferred by it. This should ensure the existence of better relations between them. In many cases, however, the landlords' agents do not grant proper receipts for rent paid, as required by the Act, and the Settlement Officer of a district has now been vested with the powers of

a Collector under Section 58 to deal with such cases of breach of the law. The large decrease which occurred in transfers by voluntary sale indicates an improvement in the condition of the tenants. No greater inclination was shown by landlords during the year to claim the landlords' fees credited to them, though the amendment of the Tenancy Act in the previous year provides that the acceptance of such fees shall not operate as an admission by the landlord of the accuracy of the statements made in the deed of transfer.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Legislation.

14. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Tenancy Amendment Act (I of 1908) was passed during the year, and a General Clauses Bill and a Bill to amend the Excise Law were introduced in Council, the former being passed early in the current year as Act I of 1909. Twelve Acts were extended, wholly or in part, to various parts of the province.

POLICE.

Military Police.

15. The most satisfactory features of the year were an increase in enlistmentand a decline in casualties, which were both probably due to the raising of the sepoys' pay in April 1908. The health of the force was not so good as in the previous year, the number of deaths as well as admissions to hospital showing an increase. A detachment of the Lakhimpur Military Police Battalion was called out on a punitive expedition to the Rangpang Naga country, and detachments from different battalions were sent to Dacca, Barisal, Comilla and Jalpaiguri.

Civil Police.

16. The strength of the Civil Police, including the Armed Reserve, was increased in all ranks, and, in consequence of the increase of work due to the disturbed condition of parts of the province, the services of four police officers from other provinces were temporarily placed at the disposal of this Government. In spite of a rise in the pay of constables, a decline in the popularity of the service was marked by a decrease in the number of recruits and an increase in resignations. The constant abuse, to which the Police were subjected in newspapers and elsewhere, was probably in part responsible for this. The conduct of the men was, on the whole, good. They were, in their work, exposed to keen and searching criticism, yet only two members of the force were punished for extortion and wrongful confinement and seven under Chapter IX of the Indian Penal Code.

Reforms.

17. The principal reforms of the year were the additions to strength, both in the superior and subordinate grades, the increase in the number of investigating centres and the opening of a school for constables at Silchar. Special arrangements were made for the protection of the large sums of money which are conveyed about the country in the jute season, and steps were taken to check the thefts in running trains and the crime connected with the railway and jetties in and round Chittagong.

Rural Police.

18. The most conspicuous feature of the administration of the rural police is the ease with which their pay is collected from the people. Their work was generally reported as indifferent, but there were a few cases in which 'chaukidars and daffadars did conspicuously well.

Crime.

19. In spite of the additional work thrown upon the force by the more violent aspects of the political agitation the record of the year's work was good. There was a slight reduction in the number of cases investigated and sent up, but a marked improvement in the results obtained, the percentage of convictions in cognizable cases rising to 84.

A condition of political unrest and agitation unfortunately prevailed in a portion of the province and throughout the year 1908-1909. The most noticeable features were on the one hand the endeavours of mischievous persons to incite disaffection and hatred against Government, and on the other hand the commission of crimes, some of a very grave and desperate character, by persons, often of immature mind, goaded to an extreme pitch of political excitement. A remarkable series of dakaitis, the work mainly of young men of the middle class, shocked public opinion and occasioned in some localities a general feeling of insecurity. Individually less grave, but very mischievous in their general results, were crimes of violence and intimidation in connection with boycott agitation which continued to occur during the year under report.

A large number of public meetings were held on political matters, some of a legitimate character but others tending to promote unrest by urging boycott and by misrepresenting the actions and motives of Government. The district of Bakarganj remained a proclaimed area under the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act (Act VI of 1907) until the 6th May 1908. The dissemination of seditious literature, sometimes of an extremely objectionable type, was prevalent but was checked by the prosecution of the most flagrant offenders. The activities of certain political associations were so mischievous that the Supreme Government found it necessary to legislate against them. Immediately after the passing of Act XIV of 1908 five associations, all with head-quarters in the Dacca Division, were declared to be dangerous associations under the Act. The proclamation of these associations had a very marked effect in restoring a sense of order and security. In addition it was found necessary to detain several persons in custody under the terms of Regulation III of 1818.

A satisfactory feature of the situation was the cordial approval which the residents of the province in general evinced towards the endeavours made by Government to maintain order and to restore tranquillity.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Criminal Justice.

20. Although there was an increase in the number of criminal offences reported, there was a slight decrease in the number of cases brought to trial. In the Courts of First Instance the disposals of regular criminal trials fell from 61,345 to 60,324, and the number of miscellaneous proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code, though very high, was also slightly less than in the preceding year. On the other hand, the appellate and revisional work of Magistrates increased. In the Courts of Session there was an increase of 52 in the number of cases committed for trial or referred and of 34 in the number disposed of during the year. The appellate work of these Courts also increased, but there was a small decrease in the revisional work. In both Sessions and Magistrates' Courts there was a marked reduction in the periods for which witnesses were detained. The number of appeals for disposal by the High Court during the year was 390 and the number disposed of was 370, the corresponding figures in the previous year being 420 and 401. An increase, however, occurred in the reference and revision work of the High Court. Offences against the State which first made an appearance in the previous year's returns were more numerous in the year under review, 10 persons against 7 in 1907 being brought to trial for such offences, while 20 persons were proceeded against under Section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code for disseminating seditious matter.

In the Hill Districts there was a decrease in criminal cases, both on the original and on the appellate side.

JAILS.

Jails.

21. The subsidiary jails at Kohima, Aijal, Dhubri and Nowgong were raised to the status of district jails, but, apart from this, there were no important changes in the jail administration of the Province.

The number of prisoners admitted during the year was almost the same as in the preceding year, but there was a decrease of 332 in the daily total average population, which was largely due to releases granted on occasion of the Proclamation Anniversary on November 2nd, 1908. There was an improvement in discipline, but escapes were still too numerous in Assam. The death-rate among the prisoners rose during the year, but the general health was distinctly good. The cash profit returned by the employment of convicts on manufactures showed a remarkable increase. The establishment of the Press at the Central Jail, Dacca, opened a new form of employment for a large number of convicts.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Civil Justice.

22. The year was marked by a very large increase in the number of original suits instituted, but the disposals more than counterbalanced the institutions and the number decided on contest was appreciably larger than in the previous year. The working of the Appellate Courts showed an improvement. The increase in disposals was in excess of that of institutions, and there was consequently a reduction in the pending file.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

23. The continued expansion of the registration of ordinary documents was marked by the opening of eight new offices and an increase of 26,457 in the number of deeds registered. The returns of Muhammadan Marriage Registration showed, however, a decline in the number of ceremonies registered in spite of an increase in the number of offices. A Departmental Examination has been prescribed with the object of improving the qualifications of Marriage Registrars and Kazis.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Municipalities.

24. The ordinary income as well as the expenditure of the Municipalities of the province increased during the year. Revision of assessments provided for an increased income of Rs. 37,526, but there was an unexplained fall in the percentage of collections. A reduction in the number of meetings and in the attendance of Commissioners indicated a decline in the interest taken in Municipal affairs. Considerable progress was made in the improvement of the water-supply in several towns, but beyond this there was little in the history of the year which calls for special notice.

District and Local Boards.

25. On the other hand, the work of the District and Local Boards showed marked progress. The development of primary education, the improvements effected in rural water-supply, the preparation of settled programmes of work and the reduction of balances are all evidence of this. The proportion of the Boards' total income spent on education reached 30 per cent., and there was an increase of more than 1,600 in the number of maintained or aided Lower Primary Schools. The Boards must, however, guard against the danger of sacrificing efficiency to a mere increase in number. Steady progress was made in the improvement of rural water-supplies, the Boards assisted by liberal subventions from Government incurring an increase of more than one lakh of rupees on this object. Previously these grants were made on the condition that equal amounts would be found by the Sanitary Board and from private subscriptions. This condition may now be relaxed at the discretion of the Sanitary Board. In connection with this branch of the Boards' work a special feature has been the preparation of settled programmes by the Boards of the Dacca Division with maps showing the needs and resources of the various localities as regards water-supply.

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

Volunteer Corps.

26. The four Volunteer Corps in the province maintained their strength and efficiency.

MARINE.

Marine.

27. The income of the Chittagong Port Fund decreased by Rs. 29,987, or 13·56 per cent., and the expenditure fell from Rs. 3,15,929 to Rs. 1,72,615. The number of vessels entering the port during the year slightly increased, but there was a decrease in the aggregate tonnage. The work of revetment of the river bank was continued and an expenditure of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs was incurred. Government made a further grant of Rs. 1·70 lakhs for the work, and Rs. 2·05 lakhs were borrowed from Government by the Port Trust. Government also made a grant to cover the maintenance charge of the dredger. The dredger worked for about nine months during the year, and, as one dredger seems insufficient to cope with the work, the Port Commissioners are considering the question of obtaining another.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Agriculture.

28. The several agricultural farms in the province continued experiments with various crops. Potatoes and sugarcane were in most cases selected, but at the Central Farm at Dacca the experiments were confined to paddy and at Wahjain the previous year's experiments with lemon-grass oil were repeated. The Shillong Fruit Station cultivated strawberries, asparagus, sweet potatoes and rhubarb at a considerable profit. The Rangpur Farm was transferred to the Rangpur Agricultural Association, and the Local Government has agreed to pay half the gross working expenses up to a maximum of Rs. 3,000 per annum.

In order to stimulate potato cultivation, a bulletin on the potato and a vernacular notice inviting applications for seed were widely distributed. Nainital and Darjeeling seeds were procured and distributed to a large number of applicants, official and non-official. Demonstrations of spraying potatoes with Bordeaux mixture were continued on a wider scale among the Khasi cultivators, and the profitable character of the device was fully proved. Jute, cotton, oranges and live-stock were also experimented with in several places with varying success. Some of the most promising experiments during the year were those made in wet rice cultivation, poultry breeding and potato growing in the Lushai Hills under the supervision of the Superintendent and in terraced rice cultivation among the Ao Nagas at Mokokchang.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

29. The year witnessed a great expansion of the Co-operative Societies' movement. The total number of these useful institutions rose from 135 to 231 and the invested capital from less than 1¾ lakhs to nearly 5½ lakhs. Only one society failed to make a profit during the year, and in that case the deficit was less than one rupee. Most of the urban societies paid very handsome dividends. Sums due on account both of principal and interest were paid in punctually, and the societies met with hearty support from the classes for whose benefit they are intended.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and crops.

30. A great deficiency of rainfall injuriously affected the harvest of the year. There was a marked decrease in the area under almost every kind of crop, and the outturn per acre, as well as the total produce, was reduced. *Aus* or summer rice, which was extensively sown and yielded an excellent harvest, was the only exception. The total amount of rice produced was calculated to be a lakh of tons less than in the previous year. It was a poor year, too, for jute, but the decrease in cultivation was due in the case of jute as much to the fall in price as to the unfavourable weather. The average price of jute was only Rs. 5-8 per maund at the beginning of the season and dropped to Rs. 5-4. The yields of mustard, sugarcane and tobacco were also much poorer. The price of common rice, which varied from Rs. 4-2 to Rs. 5-5 per maund, was still high, but was uniformly lower than in the previous year, and at the close of the year was lower than it had been for three years.

FORESTS.

Forests.

31. The disforestation of a large area in the Chittagong Hill Tracts resulted in a reduction of the area of the reserved forests, the total at the close of the year being 6,311 square miles as compared with 6,550 square miles in the previous year. Satisfactory progress was made by the Department in disposing of pending settlement cases and in bringing the reserves under systematic management by the preparation of working plans. Considerable expenditure was incurred on buildings and roads for the improvement of communications and development of forest traffic. The drought and high winds led to serious outbreaks of fire which caused much damage in spite of the special protection attempted in a large area.

MANUFACTURES, MINES AND FACTORIES.

Manufactures.

32. The season, on the whole, was unfavourable for tea cultivation, but there was an extension of the area under cultivation and a slight increase in the outturn. The crop was somewhat poorer in quality than in the preceding year, and there was a general fall in prices, but the great improvement in the supply of labour has considerably improved the prospects of the industry.

Mines.

33. While the output of coal showed a decrease, a steady increase occurred in the production of petroleum. The Government royalties rose in both cases.

Factories.

34. The total number of factories at the close of the year was 101, or 7 less than in the preceding year. There was an increase of 448 in the daily average number of operatives employed, but the percentage of children fell from 3·2 to 2·9. The provisions of the Factories Act were generally observed and the sanitary arrangements were on the whole good.

TRADE.

Maritime Trade.

35. The total value of the maritime trade of the province was Rs. 693·57 lakhs, or nearly Rs. 29 lakhs less than in 1907-1908. The value of the coasting trade decreased by Rs. 130 lakhs, which was due almost entirely to the fall in importation of rice from Burma, better harvests having relieved this province from the necessity of importing large quantities of rice and paddy. On the other hand, there was a rise of Rs. 101 lakhs in the value of the foreign trade. The increase occurred mainly in exports, the returns of rice, hemp and jute showing the greatest advance.

Rail and River-borne Trade.

36. The value of the rail and river-borne trade with other provinces rose to Rs. 4,747 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 52 lakhs over the figures of the previous year. Imports declined in value by Rs. 154 lakhs, but there was a rise of Rs. 206 lakhs in the export trade, the causes being the reduction in imports of European piece-goods, sugar and rice and the increase in the exports of rice, jute, hemp and silk.

Frontier Trade.

37. There was a decline of 10 per cent., approximately, in the frontier trade, imports falling in value by more than a lakh of rupees owing to a decline in the trade in lac, rubber and timber, while exports showed a rise of Rs. 25,385 in value. Eighty per cent. of the trade was with Bhutan.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Public Works.

38. Many important projects were dealt with during the year by the Public Works Department. Considerable progress was made with the construction of the new Government Houses at Dacca and Chittagong. For the new Civil Station at Dacca additional land was acquired, the grounds were cleared and laid out, new roads were made and drained, eleven houses were finished and thirteen were under construction. In various parts of the province many new residences, offices, circuit-houses, dâk and inspection bungalows, barracks and other buildings were completed or under construction. Under the head of Communications roads were constructed, widened and metalled and several bridges built. Preliminary and detailed surveys of railway lines were also undertaken. A detailed account of the year's work is given in Part II of the Report. The total expenditure on Public Works increased by more than Rs. 10 lakhs.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross Revenue.

39. The gross receipts for the year, taking Imperial and Provincial revenues together and including adjustments between Imperial and Provincial revenues, aggregated Rs. 4 66,68,374, an approximate increase of Rs. 6½ lakhs over the corresponding figures of 1907-1908. Increases appeared mainly under the heads of Stamps and Excise, while receipts under Land Revenue showed a falling off.

Land Revenue.

40. There was a decrease of about Rs. 2½ lakhs in Land Revenue receipts, an increase in ordinary land revenue being more than balanced by a fall in miscellaneous land revenue, which was due to smaller recoveries on account of Survey and Settlement charges.

Customs.

41. Customs receipts rose to Rs. 11·10 lakhs, showing an increase of 14·1 per cent., which was due to the revival of the export rice trade and larger clearances of salt at Chittagong.

Salt.

42. Excluding duty-paid salt imported by rail, imports of salt decreased by 25·31 per cent., which was due mainly to the large stocks remaining in the warehouses at the close of the previous year. The decrease was most marked in imports from the United Kingdom, which showed a reduction of 81·49 per cent. The large importation of duty-paid salt by wholesale vendors from Calcutta led to a decrease in the total clearances of salt in this province. That the reduction of duty has greatly benefited the consumer is shown by the fact that the price has fallen in almost all districts, the average wholesale price per maund in the bazar being 9 annas less than it was two years ago. The net revenue from salt was Rs. 20·22 lakhs which was 2·32 per cent. less than in the preceding year.

Excise.

43. The total excise revenue increased by about Rs. 2½ lakhs. There was an increase in consumption of ganja and imported liquor, but in the case of opium and country spirit increase of revenue was accompanied by decreased consumption. In the Assam Valley districts the treasury price of opium was raised from Rs. 37 to Rs. 40. The policy of reducing the number of country spirit, ganja and opium shops was continued during the year, the settlements being 262 less than in 1907-1908, involving a loss of more than Rs. 5 lakhs in fees. The contract supply system was extended to six districts in Assam. Financially the extension was not a success, prejudice against a new system and smuggling being the chief causes of a decline in revenue, but the introduction of the system led to an improvement in the quality of the liquor and a decrease of drunkenness.

Stamps.

44. There was an increase of about Rs. 3 lakhs in the revenue collected under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts, while the total charges remained almost the same. The amount of duty and penalty realized in cases dealt with by Civil Courts and Revenue Officers increased by Rs. 10,254, while there was a decrease in the number of criminal prosecutions. The deficit duty realized after enquiry in probate cases amounted to 61·7 per cent. of the duty originally paid.

Income-tax.

45. There was a normal expansion of 5·6 per cent. in the net revenue from income-tax. The final demand for the year rose to Rs. 9,82,643, of which 99·1 per cent. was collected.

46. Both the receipts and charges of the Forest Department increased during the year, the net increase to revenue being Rs. 12,359. Forest Revenue.

47. The accounts for 1908-1909 showed an opening balance of Rs. 35,58,000. The gross receipts of the year aggregated Rs. 2,55,70,000, which, with the addition of the opening balance, gave a sum of Rs. 2,91,28,000 from which to meet the expenditure of the year. The total expenditure was Rs. 2,95,46,000 or Rs. 4,18,000 in excess of the gross revenue available. This sum *plus* a sum of 12 lakhs representing the prescribed minimum balance of the province was made good by Imperial revenues. The heavy outlay of the year was mainly due to special expenditure following on the creation of the new province and to growing administrative needs. Provincial Finance.

48. There are now no Incorporated Local Funds. The transactions of all Local Funds have been excluded from the Government accounts from the 1st April 1908. The financial position of the funds of which an account is still submitted to Government was sound, the total closing balance at the end of the year being Rs. 23,39,130. Local Funds.

49. The current demand on account of Road and Public Works Cesses in Eastern Bengal rose to Rs. 32,43,097, showing an increase of ·45 per cent. over that of the previous year. Collections were not quite so good, the percentage of total collections on current demand falling from 101·54 to 100·39. In Assam there was an increase of 2·2 per cent. in the current local rate demand which rose to Rs. 7,50,332, and the percentage of collections on current demand reached the very high figure of 114·06. Road and Public Works Cesses.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

50. The year 1908 was generally healthy, and the price of food-grains was lower than it has been for three years. Drought was the cause of scarcity in some parts of the Rajshahi Division, but public health does not seem to have been affected, for Dinajpur, the district in which the scarcity was most felt, recorded a higher birth-rate and a lower death-rate than its average for the last five years. The provincial birth-rate rose from 37·01 in 1907 to 41·14, and the death-rate, though slightly higher than in the previous year, was lower than the quinquennial average. The ratios compare very favourably with those of other provinces. Vital Statistics.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

51. Several important measures were passed in furtherance of the policy of encouraging the recruitment of free labour by Sardars and of the eventual abolition of the contractor and indentured labour. Evidence of the success of that policy is to be found in the large number of immigrants to Assam in the year under review, which cannot be explained by the existence of scarcity in the recruiting districts, as in the previous year. During the last two years the number of indentured labourers has fallen to 8·9 per cent., while the total labour force has increased by 71,630, or more than 10 per cent. Immigration.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

52. The Dispensary returns of the year show that the popularity of these institutions is still growing. The number of dispensaries in existence rose from 510 to 522, and there was a large increase in the number of patients. To bring medical aid nearer to the people, Civil Medical Assistants were in most districts deputed to attend markets and a large number of patients were treated there in the year under report. Charitable Dispensaries.

53. The number of lunatics admitted to the Asylums of the province in recent years shows no marked change. Mania was as usual the most common type of madness. The ratio of insanity continued to be very much higher amongst Hindus than amongst Muhammadans. The Asylums were efficiently managed and the inmates were treated with care and consideration. Lunatic Asylums.

SANITATION.

Sanitation.

54. Progress was made with important schemes of water-supply and drainage in several Municipalities of the province. The Narayanganj water-works were completed and have proved of great value. In Dacca preliminary steps have been taken for an improvement of the water-supply, funds have been allotted, and the work has already been put in hand. An extensive drainage scheme for the town, of which the anticipated cost is from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 lakhs, and a surface drainage scheme for the new Civil Station are now being considered. In Mymensingh the improvement of the water-works has been undertaken, the detailed plans and estimates having been submitted for sanction, and preliminary steps have also been taken for the preparation of a drainage scheme. At English Bazar a new drainage system has been sanctioned and work has already begun, while two important drainage schemes for Rangpur and the surrounding *bils* are being drawn up. In many other towns of Eastern Bengal and Assam important sanitary projects are under consideration. Sanitation is now recognised to be so important that nearly half the total income of Municipalities is spent on sanitary works, and whenever an extensive scheme has been adopted, Government has given or promised generous assistance. The District and Local Boards of the province also incurred considerable expenditure under this head, which was devoted mainly to improving rural water-supplies. During the year the rule governing grants-in-aid for the improvement of water-supply which required that one-third of the cost should be met by local contribution was relaxed, and, as a consequence of this concession, the grants made by the Sanitary Board amounted to more than three times as much as those given in the previous year.

Interest in the scheme of quinine distribution is spreading and District and Local Boards in many places undertook the work of popularizing the drug. It is, unfortunately, in the districts most affected by fever that least headway has been made.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination.

55. There was an increase of more than 6 per cent. in the number of operations performed during the year, the introduction of small-pox from Calcutta having called for special activity on the part of the Vaccination Staff in many districts. Renewed efforts, which met with considerable success, were made to overcome the prejudice against vaccination in parts of Assam and the hill districts.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Education.

56. The increase of more than Rs. 8 lakhs in expenditure indicates that great progress was made during the year in the development of education in the province. The staff in the Government Colleges and High schools was considerably strengthened in compliance with the new Regulations of the University, and 34 new appointments were made in the Inspecting staff of the province. The increase in the number of educational institutions and of students attending them, 1,413 and 81,797, respectively, represents a record advance. There was a remarkable expansion of female education, 819 new girls' schools being opened and an increase of 24,493 pupils being shown on the rolls. An inspecting and controlling agency for these schools is greatly needed, and the first step to remove this defect was taken by the appointment of an Inspectress of girls' schools for the province. Lower Primary Education also spread rapidly during the year, the increase in the number of such schools and their pupils being 572 and 48,696, respectively. This was due mainly to the increased grants of over three lakhs of rupees made to the District and Local Boards for the purpose. The want of a sufficient number of qualified teachers, however, makes this increase in the number of such institutions of doubtful value. Until the system for training teachers has turned out a much larger number of qualified men, it will be advisable for the Boards to devote their energy towards securing efficiency rather than numbers. Much, however, was done in the former direction during the year by erecting and equipping suitable buildings for these schools. Another feature of the year's work was the success which has attended the measures adopted for the furtherance of education

among Muhammadans. The number of Muhammadan boys reading in secondary schools increased by nearly 6,000, and of this number 1,670 represents the increase in High schools, while the percentage of Muhammadans to the total number of pupils under Primary instruction exceeded 57. It is also noteworthy that Musalman girls constituted 71 per cent. of the increase in the number of girls attending school.

In technical education no real advance was made, but at an Industrial Conference held during the year it was recommended that a separate Department should be formed under a Director who would be responsible for technical and industrial education, and it is hoped that it will be possible before long to give effect to this recommendation.

Though the early part of the year was marked by the same unsatisfactory state of insubordination, disloyalty and active sedition among the pupils and teachers of educational institutions that existed in previous years, there was a marked improvement in this respect towards the close of the year.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature and the Press.

57. The number of newspapers rose from 43 to 53 during the year, but the number of books registered fell from 247 to 223. The same characteristics which were noticeable in the preceding year re-appeared in these publications. The tone of the great majority of the papers was very violent at the beginning of the year, but an improvement was to be seen after the introduction of the Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act. The publications of the year were as usual characterised by a total absence of literary merit, and the most popular theme continued as before to be unintelligent abuse of the British people and British goods, combined with a recital of grievances in language so unrestrained and extravagant as to destroy any pretence to verisimilitude.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

58. The most important archæological work carried out during the year was the maintenance of the restoration of the ancient monuments at Gaur and Pandua. A valuable discovery of some brass cannon, apparently dating from the 16th century, was made in the Dacca district.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VETERINARY.

Veterinary.

59. The Veterinary Department has not yet been recruited up to full sanctioned strength, but in spite of this it was able to do excellent work during the year. Inoculation against the more dangerous kinds of contagious disease was carried out in 58,000 cases with most successful results, and the total number of cases treated by touring Veterinary Assistants (64,000) was nearly double that of the previous year. It is essential to the successful treatment of epidemic disease that early intimation of the outbreak should be given to the Veterinary Department. With this object a scheme was introduced during the year to utilize the peripatetic officers of other Departments as reporting agencies.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

PART II.

THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1908-1909.

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ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1908-1909.

LIBRA OF THE BOMB BRAN OF THE ROYAL ASIATI

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

SECTION 1.—Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.
SECTION 2.—Historical Summary.
SECTION 3.—Form of Administration.
SECTION 4.—Character of Land Tenures, system of Surveys and Settlements.
SECTION 5.—Civil Divisions of British Territory.
SECTION 6.—Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, pages 1-98.]

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration.

Changes in the Administration.

1. (*a*) An additional post was created in the 2nd grade of District and Sessions Judges to provide for the appointment of Additional Judge of Dacca, Tippera and Sylhet.

(*b*) Two outlying criminal courts were established at Sibchar and Gopalganj in the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district, in order to secure more effective administrative control and to make the courts more accessible to the people.

(*c*) The reorganisation of the Imperial, Provincial and Subordinate Forest Services in the province, including the appointment of a second Conservator, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State during the year. The staff now sanctioned consists of 16 Imperial Officers besides two Conservators, 16 Provincial Officers, 41 Rangers, 66 Deputy Rangers and 718 Forest Guards. The province was divided into two forest circles with effect from April 1st, 1909.

(*d*) A Provincial Forest School was opened for the first time at Kachugaon in Goalpara district in October 1908. Its object is to give a thorough practical training to Deputy Rangers and Foresters, and the results of the first year's work were very successful.

Other minor changes in administration are noticed in the chapters dealing with the departments affected.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Fedatory States.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, pages 99-107.]

SECTION 9.—Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

Feudatory States.

MANIPUR.

[Tribute :—Rs. 50,000 annually. Population (1901) :— 284,465. Gross revenue (average for last five years) :— Rs. 4,28,966. Military :—200 Military Police. Products :—rice, dal, vegetables, rubber, wax, tea-seed and other forest products, ponies, cattle and buffaloes. Manufactures :—Cotton cloth, silk cloth, brass and other metal utensils, a few articles of ivory and jewellery, some leather work, and coarse salt. Minerals :— Iron, limestone, copper and salt, but iron and copper are not worked.

Raja :— His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh, aged 23 years; caste—Kshatriya. The Raja has a son by his second wife, Rani Chingakham Sayama Sakhi, and a daughter by his first wife, Rani Ngangbom Ibemacha.]

General.

2. On 24th July 1908 a son was born to His Highness the Raja. There was no change in the administration of the State during the year and no new legislation was enacted. The efforts to withdraw all unlicensed guns were continued and 101 guns were confiscated.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Hill tribes.

3. The conduct of the hill tribes was satisfactory except in the case of a few villages where punitive labour was imposed. The Kukis living in the unadministered tract outside the eastern boundary of the State were restless and raids were made on the Somra villages. Many Kukis also moved from Manipur where they can be kept under supervision to the unadministered tracts where they can oppress their weaker neighbours at their will. House-tax was levied on the hill tribes at the same rates as in previous years. There was an increase of 2,041 houses in the hill tracts, and the current demand rose from Rs. 61,052 to Rs. 62,122. The total demand was Rs. 63,526, out of which a sum of Rs. 59,933 was collected and Rs. 2,003 remitted.

Land Revenue.

4. The Imphal *Panna* was resurveyed during the year. This resulted in an increase of 2,013 bighas in the area as shown under cultivation and of Rs. 1,342 in the revenue demand. The current demand rose from Rs. 2,94,541 to Rs. 3,09,795, but the percentage of collections fell from 97·56 to 95·45. The sum of Rs. 2,694 was remitted and the arrears outstanding at the close of the year were Rs. 12,078. The total receipts were Rs. 3,01,424, against Rs. 2,90,609 in the previous year.

Administration of Justice.

5. During the year several serious burglaries occurred in Imphal, and cattle theft was prevalent in the valley. The number of criminal offences reported fell from 798 in the previous year to 584, but the number of persons brought to trial rose from 999 to 1,188. The total number of civil suits for disposal during the year was 2,392, as compared with 3,186 in 1907-1908, the decrease occurring in the number of institutions. The number of disposals declined from 2,963 to 2,498.

Medical and Sanitation.

6. Two dispensaries were closed during the year by order of His Highness the Raja, as he did not consider their existence was justified by the attendance. The total number of operations performed fell from 484 to 308 and the Vaccination returns showed a slight decrease. Owing to the continued drought a severe epidemic of cholera broke out towards the end of April 1908 and lasted in a virulent form till the end of June. The total number of reported deaths from cholera in the valley during the epidemic amounted to no less than 6·5 per cent. of the population as recorded at the census of 1901. A scheme for conveying water to Imphal from the Maklong and Palok rivers is under contemplation.

Education.

7. At the Johnstone School at Imphal the number of pupils on the rolls rose to 215, the introduction of fees having increased rather than diminished the popularity of the school. The number of Lower Primary schools remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 55, including one girls' school, but there was a reduction in the number of pupils. The six *pathsalas* started in 1907-1908, the teachers of which are paid partly in cash and partly in contributions of paddy from the villagers, are reported to have done good work. The results of the school examinations were not so satisfactory as in the preceding year, but are explained by the fact that the schools were closed for two months during the cholera epidemic. There are 19 hill schools, 9 among the Tangkul Nagas, 4 among the Kukis and 6 in the villages in the northern hills.

Production.

8. Though the rainfall was slightly greater than in the previous year, it was badly distributed, there being no rain before June. Cultivators were in consequence unable to prepare the fields for paddy till very late in the season. The harvest was estimated at 14 annas but prices still ruled low and first quality rice was selling in March at Re. 1-10 per maund. The working of the Manipur Sericulture Company, Limited, was much hindered by the dry season, as owing to the want of rain it was found impossible to prepare land for mulberry, while the cholera epidemic caused great difficulty in obtaining labour. The Company intend to manufacture ghee and have imported some Jersey and Kerry bulls and cows from England in the hope that inter-breeding will increase the supply of milk. Lac cultivation did not prove profitable, but the demand is now said to be increasing. It is proposed to work a rubber-mahal in the current year.

Finance.

9. The total receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 4,50,479, as compared with Rs. 4,47,130 in the previous year. The increase under "Land Revenue" has already been noted. The income from "Forests" rose from Rs. 16,031 to Rs. 25,597, and "Fisheries" also showed an increase. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 4,72,614 or Rs. 19,204 more than in the previous year.

HILL TIPPERA.

[Area:—4,086 square miles. Population (1901):—1,73,325. Revenue from State:—Rs. 8,05,992. Revenue from zamindari in British territory:—Rs. 8,70,715. Military force:—one regiment of 256 men. Chief products:—Rice and cotton. Present Raja:—His Highness the Bisama-Samara-Bijoyee Mahamahodaya Pancha-Srijukta Raja Birendra Kishore Dev Barman Manikya Bahadur, aged 26 years, caste Kshatriya, who succeeded his father Raja Radha Kishore Dev Barman Manikya Bahadur on the 13th March 1909; has male issue, but heir not yet nominated.]

10. The year under review was memorable for the death of Raja Radha Kishore Manikya Bahadur and the birth of a son to his successor, Raja Birendra Kishore Manikya Bahadur.

General Administration.

11. Towards the end of the year, the Minister Rai Umakanta Das Bahadur retired, and was succeeded by Babu Annada Charan Gupta, B.A., Deputy Magistrate of the Provincial Civil Service of Eastern Bengal and Assam, with the designation of "Chief Officer." A Darbar Council called the Amatya Shava was constituted soon afterwards. The Appellate Court at Sadar, corresponding to the Sessions Court in a British district, was amalgamated with the Khas Appellate Court, which is now called the Khas Adalat and has an original as well as an appellate side.

Revenue and Finance.

12. The opening balance of the year was Rs. 3,45,534. The gross income of the State amounted to Rs. 10,08,536, representing an increase of more than Rs. 2 lakhs over the income of the previous year and the average for the past five years. The largest increase occurred under the heads "Cotton," "Forests," "Land Revenue," "Nazars" and "Sale of Sâl trees". The income from zamindaries amounted to Rs. 9,61,616. Miscellaneous receipts, deposits and loans brought the total receipts to Rs. 24,67,045. The total expenditure was Rs. 18,69,700 against Rs. 18,38,794 in the previous year, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 5,97,345.

Administration of Justice.

13. Although there was an increase in the number of offences reported to the police, the total number of cases for disposal by the several original Criminal Courts (1,309) was one less than in the previous year. In addition there were 6 Sessions cases and 150 criminal appeals. The number of civil suits instituted rose from 1,283 to 1,478. The total number of original suits for disposal was 1,810, of which 374 were pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals instituted fell from 215 to 184. The abolition of the old Sadr Appellate Court removed the abuse of a second appeal in even the pettiest cases.

General condition of the people.

14. Normal rainfall in the first part of the year produced bumper *aus*, cotton and jute crops, but subsequent drought reduced the outturn of *aman* paddy and *rabi* crops. The price of rice varied from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 6-8 per maund. The cotton market at first was dull but soon improved, and the prices rose from Rs. 2 to Rs. 8 per maund. Trade was brisk in forest produce, cotton, jute, paddy, mats and baskets. The condition of the people both in the hills and in the plains was good. There was no distress in any part of the State and the general health was also good.

Frontier Tribes.

BHUTIAS.

Bhutias.

15. The usual fairs were held at Darranga and Subankhata in January, February and March, about 7,000 Bhutias being present at the former and about 400 at the latter. The attendance at Darranga shows a great increase over the figures of the previous year (2,500), the presence of traders from the plains attracting the tribesmen. Bhutias came down to Darrang in fewer numbers than in previous year. Their conduct showed a great improvement, no complaint being lodged against them by the villagers living near the frontier. The annual *posa* of Rs. 5,000 was distributed by the Deputy Commissioner in open Darbar at Udalguri. The Thebengia and Charduar Bhutias received their *posa* at Tezpur, when presents were exchanged as usual.

AKAS.

Akas.

16. The Kapachar and Hazarikhoa Akas came down to receive their *posa* and the usual interchange of presents took place.

DAFLAS.

Daflas.

17. The Daflas received their *posa*, amounting to Rs. 2,866-12. The conduct of these tribesmen, when they visit British territory, is not at all satisfactory. Two Miris were killed and their guns stolen near the Bhareli river and the Daflas were suspected of the crime. Two unsuccessful attempts were made to carry off plainsmen from the Lakhimpur district, and on another occasion some Daflas succeeded in carrying off two Khamtis. Men of the same tribe were also responsible for nearly killing a Kataki by a spring trap. The looting of small camps and the committing of petty thefts and acts of oppressions are becoming very common. No complaint of any sort, however, was received against the Apa Tanangs.

MIRIS.

Miris.

18. Disputes between the Gachi Miris, the Panibotia and Tarbotia Miris and the Sarak Miris occur frequently, but when they visit British territory, these tribesmen are well behaved and readily submit to arbitration. The tendency to resort to British officers for settlement of disputes is growing stronger among the Gachis. The Sarak Miris came down with their Gams to take their *posa*.

ABORS.

Doba Abors.

19. The Doba Abors, known also as Galongs, behaved well throughout the year and came in as usual to receive their *posa*.

Pasi-Minyongs.

20. During January and February Mr. Williamson, the Assistant Political Officer, went to Pasighat and thence paid a friendly visit to Kebang, receiving on his way a hearty welcome from the people. In May the headmen of Ledum and Depi were ordered to appear before the Assistant Political Officer to answer a charge of attempting to blackmail the Manager of the Laimekuri Saw Mills and were warned of the consequences of such behaviour.

Bor Abors or Padams.

21. The Assistant Political Officer received a visit from Keroti Gam of Dambuk in connection with the escape of two Thibetans, whose owners asked for compensation. This, however, was refused and the Thibetans were repatriated under orders of Government. Several Padams of Bomjur, having moved further down the Dibong, were assessed to revenue which they paid without demur. The Padam settlement at Sibiya continued to flourish, and no complaint was received from the settlers of interference on the part of the Padam villagers beyond the outer line.

MISHMIS.

Mishmis.

22. The blockade of the Chulikata and Bebejiya Mishmis was continued throughout the year with the exception of certain selected Chulikata villages which were given permission to trade at Sadiya. The blockade of the Bebejiyas did not induce them to surrender the men who committed the murders in 1905. The Digarus and Mijus gave no trouble and several headmen of these tribes paid friendly visits to the Assistant Political Officer at Sadiya.

KHAMTIS AND SINGPHOS.

Khamtis and Singphos.

23. During the year the Assistant Political Officer visited the Khamtis and was informed that a party of Chinese traders had made their way to the Khamti Long in October last and had bartered Chinese opium for Khamti cloths. The Khamtis and Singphos gave no trouble during the year.

NAGAS.

Margherita Nagas Yogis and Rangpangs.

24. In November and December Mr. Williamson visited the Rangpang hills, and in the course of his tour the village of Rashi was punished for the raid of the previous year on the Sarkari Nagas, in which seven British subjects were killed. The sacrifice of human beings is a common practice among the Rangpangs, and information goes to show that each male member of the tribe offers up during his life time two victims to his household deity, the victims being slaves purchased for the purpose.

Joypur Nagas, Borduarias, Namsangyas and Bor-Methunias.

25. These tribes behaved well during the year. Some Borduaria Nagas complained against certain managers of tea gardens for non-payment of their wages in full. On enquiry some cases were found true, while others were not proved. These Nagas go in large numbers to work on tea gardens, and disputes as to payment, which are probably due to the Nagas not fully grasping the terms of agreement, are not uncommon.

Nagas on the Sibsagar border.

26. The chiefs of the Khamlung and Moniting Nagas paid visits to the Deputy Commissioner and the usual presents were exchanged. Fourteen Nagas were convicted and punished in the Sadr subdivision, five for theft and nine for offences against the Excise and Arms Acts. In the Jorhat subdivision two cases of collision between Nagas and the local people occurred, in one of which Nagas and in the other Assamese were the offenders.

NAGA HILLS.

Naga Hills.

27. The Aishan Kukis continued to harrass Naga villages and caused serious trouble after the close of the year. The conduct of the Trans-Tizu and Trans-Dikhu tribes under British control was good, but among the independent tribes across the frontier raiding, burning of villages and head-taking went on with undiminished vigour. Their relations with Government were, on the whole, satisfactory and in many cases friendly. Five villages punished for occurrences reported in the previous year paid in full the fines of *mithan*, but 20 *mithan* were still due from the Pelasi Khel of Mozungjami.

GARO HILLS.

Garo Hills.

28. The agitation in connection with Sonaram continued, but the people have become dissatisfied with the way in which Sonaram has been spending their money and, although they have not deserted his cause, have appointed men to watch the expenditure. The work of demarcating the Garo Hills-Goalpara boundary was undertaken during the year.

LUSHAI HILLS.

Lushai Hills.

29. Politically the year was uneventful. The military police guard of 50 rifles at Sherkor fulfilled its object and there were no outrages on this undefined frontier. The Government of India were unable to accept the proposals submitted by the Local Government conjointly with the Government of Burma for the absorption of the intervening independent tract. The definition of the southern boundary of the district is, therefore, necessary.

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

[Consisting of twenty-five States:—Bhowal, Cherra, Shella, Khyrim, Mylliem, Langrin, Maharam, Mawiang, Maosanram, Malaisohmat, Mariaw, Nobosohphoh, Nongkhlaw, Nongspung, Nongstoin, Rambrai, Jirang, Dwara, Nongtyrmen, Maodon, Maolong, Pomsangut, Lyngiong, Mauphlang, Nonglwai, and Sohiong. Total population, 202,250.]

Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

30. The behaviour of the several Siems, with a few exceptions, was good. In consequence of the good conduct of the Shella people, orders were passed for the withdrawal of the police guard stationed there. On expiry of his three years' term of office, U Jokisor, Wahadadar of Shella, was re-elected and a successor to U Joba Singh, Siem of Malaisohmat, who died in February, was duly chosen by the electors. Both elections were confirmed by Government. Strained relations continued between the Siem of Khyrim and the people of certain villages of his State. The Deputy Commissioner tried to bring about a better understanding and one of the points of difference, the site of a certain *hât*, has been satisfactorily settled. Raja U Kine Singh, Siem of Nongkhlaw, endeavoured to enlarge the boundaries of his State at the expense of his neighbours, and the boundary dispute between the Siems of Nongstoin and Langrin, which was decided by the Deputy Commissioner in the former's favour in the previous year, was revived by the Nongstoin people claiming lands lying still further south.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the People.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1908-1909.]

Condition of the people.

31. The prices of food-grains continued high during the year, although in most places there was an appreciable fall as compared with the figures of the preceding year. The year was one of comparative ease and prosperity for the cultivators of rice, except in the Rajshahi Division. The high price of labour, too, enabled the landless classes to purchase their requirements without much difficulty. In some parts of the province a perceptible decrease in the number of beggars and a tendency to fall in the rates of interest were significant of an improvement in the material condition of the people. Persons with fixed incomes suffered considerably from the high prices that put money into the pockets of the cultivators of rice, and cultivators of jute were affected by the low prices paid for their produce. In an extensive area in the Rajshahi Division the people suffered some distress from a failure of the rice crop. Agricultural loans were given freely and test relief works were started mainly at the expense of the District Boards. These were somewhat freely resorted to in March and April, but with the first of the spring rains the labourers dispersed to take up ordinary agricultural work, and it was found unnecessary for Government to declare a state of famine or to organize relief works on a larger scale. Public health can only be described as having been fairly good during the year. Fever, cholera and small-pox were the commonest diseases, fever being unusually prevalent in the districts of Bakarganj, Noakhali, Dinajpur and Goalpara. Cholera and small-pox occurred in almost every district in sporadic form, although there was nothing that could be called a serious epidemic.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION 1.—Realization of the Revenue.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908-1909.]

32. An account of the total demand and collection of land revenue will be found under "Chapter V.—Revenue and Finance."

Area and Revenue.

33. There was an increase of 30 square miles in the total revenue-paying area of Eastern Bengal and Assam with a corresponding increase of Rs. 2,56,736 in the revenue demand. This increase was the result of an increase of 137 square miles in Assam and a decrease of 107 square miles in Bengal. The figures for Bengal were, however, open to suspicion and were under enquiry at the close of the year. The incidence of revenue per square mile was Rs. 386·3.

Permanently-settled Estates.

34. The number of permanently-settled estates in the province increased by 190 and their area by 333 acres. The increase in number was due to partitions and in area to the transfer of one estate from the province of Bengal. Of the total area of such estates 84·31 per cent. lies in Eastern Bengal with a revenue of Rs. 94,28,198, while 15·69 per cent. with a revenue of Rs. 3,76,546 lies in Assam. A sum of Rs. 98,55,631, representing 98·32 per cent. of the total demand, was collected during the year, the outstanding balance being considerably reduced.

Temporarily-settled Estates.

35. In Eastern Bengal there were 1,445 estates settled temporarily with proprietors and farmers, and the revenue demand was Rs. 7,79,773. The total demand, current and arrear, amounted to Rs. 8,08,295, out of which a percentage of 94·91 was collected. In Assam the total area held for ordinary cultivation rose to 2,755,377 acres and the revenue assessed thereon to Rs. 53,64,211, or an increase of 3·17 and 2·99 per cent., respectively. Under special settlements there was an increase of 1,710 acres in area, due to settlements of lands for allotment to tea-garden coolies, but the revenue demand decreased by Rs. 204. The area settled with ex-garden coolies and other immigrants increased by 8,429 acres. The total demand, current and arrear, for temporarily-settled estates in Assam was Rs. 64,36,608 and nearly 95 per cent. of this demand was collected. Taking current demand alone, the percentage of collections in Assam exceeded 97 in every district except Sylhet and Kamrup, and was nearly cent. per cent. in Cachar, Goalpara and Sibsagar.

Hill districts.

36. In the hill districts there were 10,544 estates with a total revenue demand of Rs. 44,388, as compared with 9,789 and Rs. 40,317, respectively, in the previous year. The percentage of collections fell from 96·19 to 92·80.

Remittances of revenue and rent by money order.

37. There was a slight decrease in the number of revenue money orders, but the amount covered by them increased. The number of money orders issued for the payment of rent and the amount for which they were issued increased by 15·85 and 20·1 per cent., respectively, while the percentage of refusals fell.

Coercive measures—(a) Eastern Bengal.

38. The number of estates and shares of estates in Eastern Bengal which became liable to sale for the non-payment of Government dues was 5,583, the lowest figure during the past five years, and less than 9 per cent. of the estates so liable were actually sold. The number of certificates issued was 36,976 and the percentage of disposals 75·7. The demands were usually satisfied on the issue of notices or on attachment of property, recourse to actual sale being necessary only in a few cases. Three persons were imprisoned in connection with the realisation of Government dues, but the longest detention was only 3 days.

(b) Assam.

39. There was an increase of nearly 15 per cent. in the number of estates against which notices of demand were issued under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation. The number of cases in which moveable property had to be sold decreased, but there was an increase in the number of estates sold. The total amount of arrears, however, on account of which real or personal property was sold in the Assam Valley was only Rs. 3,378.

Miscellaneous Land Revenue.

40. The receipts under miscellaneous land revenue are mainly derived from fisheries, minerals, house-tax, partition fees and the recovery of survey and settlement charges, the first and the last items being at present of most importance. The total demand for Eastern Bengal and Assam was Rs. 8,26,275 on current account and Rs. 14,866 for arrears and the percentage of collections was only 77·2 and 66·05, respectively. There was a decrease of more than Rs. 3 lakhs in the demand, which is accounted for by the smaller demand under recovery of survey and settlement charges. In the hill districts the total demand for the year was Rs. 2,08,997 and the total collections amounted to Rs. 2,01,866, as compared with Rs. 2,10,122 and Rs. 2,06,364 in the previous year.

41. The number of applications filed for registration under Act VII (B.C.) of 1876 was 26,004, and the percentage of disposal was 82·5. The actual number of applications granted was 28,163, or 4·24 per cent. of the total number of interests registered. Land Registration— (a) Eastern Bengal.

42. The number of land registration cases in Assam disposed of locally by summary procedure under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation was 27,331, compared with 32,501 in the preceding year, the decrease occurring in the Surma Valley districts. The number of cases for disposal in court was 12,588, of which 9,967 were decided and 2,621 left pending. The results were not quite so good as in the previous year. (b) Assam.

43. The number of partition cases instituted during the year in Eastern Bengal was only 15 as compared with 47 in the previous year. The number of disposals, however, fell from 59 to 47, and the number of cases pending at the close of the year was 153. In Assam, excluding summary partitions effected on the spot under Rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual, 228 applications were made for partition, against 270 in the previous year, and there was a slight improvement in the disposals. Partitions.

44. Proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act in respect of 1,216 acres were confirmed during the year. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 3,41,559, of which more than a lakh and a half was on account of Government, over a lakh on behalf of Municipalities, District and Local Boards, and over half a lakh on behalf of Railways. The average cost per acre was Rs. 281. Besides the above, an area of 126·29 acres was acquired for temporary occupation at a cost of Rs. 5,218. Proceedings relating to 320 projects with an area of 4,169 acres were pending at the close of the year. Land Acquisition.

45. Loans amounting to Rs. 41,070 were granted during the year under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The total debit was Rs. 51,676, of which only Rs. 4,891 were repayable during the year. Rupees 3,003 were realised, leaving a balance of Rs. 48,673 outstanding at the close of the year. Interest amounting to Rs. 1,405 fell due during the year, of which Rs. 555 were collected and Rs. 461 suspended. Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act the amount advanced was Rs. 4,84,689 against Rs. 2,01,433 in 1907-1908. The increased demand was due to the prevalence of scarcity in the Rajshahi Division. Including the outstanding balance of the previous year, the total debit was Rs. 11,40,122, of which sum Rs. 5,86,540 were repayable within the year. Rupees 4,02,257 were actually collected, Rs. 140 were remitted as irrecoverable, and the realisation of Rs. 38,255 was suspended. Out of a total of Rs. 55,113 due as interest, Rs. 37,044 were collected and Rs. 14 remitted. The payment of some part of the balance was suspended. Loans.

SECTION 2.—Surveys and Settlements.

[*See* Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1909.]

46. The scheme of separating the Survey Department of the province from that of Bengal was completed during the year and the province has now got its own Drawing Office at Shillong. A new system of preparing Thana maps, which aims at greater accuracy, has been introduced. The programme of traverse survey of the Jalpaiguri district consisted of the marking of the trijunction points of *jotes*, *taluks*, tea gardens and forest blocks falling in the area east of the Tarsa river, and an area of 787 square miles was surveyed. In the Mymensingh district the survey was continued and an area of 877 square miles was traversed. The lands of the Municipalities of Sherpur and Jamalpur were also traversed. The traverse survey of the whole of the Faridpur district has been completed including the riverain areas on the north and east of the district. In the Dacca district the programme consisted of realying 800 square miles of area traversed before the cadastral survey was postponed, but after first 50 square miles had been dealt with, the work was abandoned. Traverse Survey.

47. In Eastern Bengal three survey and settlement parties, supervised by special officers and financed from Imperial sources were at work, one in the Bakarganj and Faridpur districts, the second in Jalpaiguri and the third in Mymensingh. In six other districts there were operations on a smaller scale under the district officers. Cadastral Survey and Settlement.

48. In Bakarganj the work has been practically completed and the Settlement Officer is engaged in winding up the proceedings. The work of the year consisted mainly of disposal of cases under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, recovery of costs and settlement of Land Revenue in 118 Government and temporarily-settled private estates. In addition to this, in 31 Government and temporarily-settled private estates notified for settlement during the year 68 square miles Bakarganj.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

have been traversed and 51 square miles cadastrally surveyed. The number of cases disposed of under section 105 was 13,875 and under section 106 7,135. During the year under report recoveries of costs amounted to Rs. 1,95,000; Rs. 24,000 have since been realised and certificates have been issued in respect of the balance.

Faridpur.

49. In Faridpur the cadastral survey, *khanapuri* and *bujharat* of the remaining 724 square miles of the district were completed and 358 square miles of the opposite banks of the Padma, Meghna and Arial Khan rivers, forming the 5 mile strips from the main stream of these rivers, were cadastrally surveyed, *khanapuri* being completed in 327 square miles and *bujharat* in 152. Attestation of the 2nd block (338 square miles) was completed. Owing to the employment of most of the officers of this party in clearing off case work in Bakarganj during the recess, progress in disposing of objections under section 103A was slow but the arrears are not heavy. Orders on the printing scheme were not received in time to permit of any attempt being made to prepare the final copy of the record.

Jalpaiguri.

50. In Jalpaiguri 700 square miles were cadastrally surveyed during the year, and *khanapuri* was completed in 480 square miles of this area, the remaining 220 square miles covering tea grants and reserved forests. *Bujharat* was completed in 969 square miles out of the 1,000 which formed the season's programme, the balance remaining undone on account of mistakes in traverse which had to be corrected. The attestation programme of 50,000 interests was completed and records published in draft. One thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine objections under section 103A were disposed of.

Mymensingh.

51. In Mymensingh traverse and cadastral survey and *khanapuri* were completed in 847 square miles and *bujharat* in 830 square miles. Attestation was done in 3 square miles only out of the 24 of the programme; the whole of this area lies in the Patiladaha estate.

Collectorate Settlements.

52. Collectorate settlements were carried on in the Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions. In the former the work was confined to Noakhali, where important work was in progress both in Government and private estates, and in the Rajshahi division to private estates in Dinajpur and Bogra and estates of both kinds in Rajshahi, Pabna and Malda.

Assam.

53. In Assam the settlement of the Nowgong district was finished in the early part of the year and the final report has been submitted. The resettlement of the Darrang district was practically completed during the year. In Lakhimpur map revision, *chitha* writing and soil classification were completed in the first of the two blocks into which the district has been divided for resettlement purposes. The resettlement concludes the resettlement of the Assam Valley districts with the exception of the temporarily-settled tracts in Goalpara. Extension surveys were also carried out in the Assam districts by village recorders.

General.

54. During the year the Tenancy Act Amendment Bill was passed. By its provisions the interests of both landlords and tenants have been safeguarded, and the law as now amended is a distinct advance towards a final solution of the agrarian problems of the province. New Rules under the Tenancy Act as amended to date were also issued by Government, defining more clearly the powers of the various grades of officers.

SECTION 3.—Land Records.

[*See* Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1909.]

Land Records.

55. In Eastern Bengal there is no special agency for the maintenance of the record. Such work as is done is carried out by the collecting staff in addition to its own duties, and in few districts are house-to-house or field-to-field enquiries made. In the Bakarganj Government and Court of Wards' Estates, where the system of field-to-field enquiries has been extended and the procedure simplified, the percentage of mutations recorded to the number of holdings was high, and a high percentage was also obtained in the Government estates of Jalpaiguri. The system of recruiting surveyors and recorders for the initial settlement operations from the villagers, which was inaugurated last year in Mymensingh, was continued and as many as 400 patwaris worked in the settlement with success. The number will be increased along with the extension of the operations in the district. A system of maintenance of the records for Chittagong is also under consideration. In Assam there is a special staff of village recorders who have nothing to do with the collection of revenue but are concerned only with the maintenance of records and the annual settlements.

SECTION 4.—Settlements for Special Cultivation (Waste Lands).

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908-1909.]

Settlements for special cultivation.

56. The total area settled for special cultivation at the close of the year amounted to 1,167,770 acres with a revenue demand of Rs. 7,22,359. The real increase both in area and in revenue was very slight. Five grants, comprising an area of 2,899 acres, were relinquished during the year. The only "special cultivation" in Eastern Bengal is that of tea in the district of Jalpaiguri, but an application has been received for the settlement of a large area in the Chittagong district for the cultivation of cotton. In the Assam and Surma Valley 57 new applications were filed, and out of a total of 130 applications for disposal, orders were finally passed in 55 only. The districts of Darrang, Lakhimpur and Sibsagar were responsible for most of the pending cases.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Easte n Bengal and Assam for 1908-1909.]

Government Estates.

57. At the close of the year there were in Eastern Bengal 1,572 Government estates with a revenue of Rs. 22,84,731. During the last four years, while the demand has increased by 10 per cent., the percentage of collections has also increased from 84·33 to 85·92 and the amount remitted has steadily fallen. The number of estates held under direct management was 1,411 against 1,392 in the preceding year. There was no material change either in the agency or in the method of management of these estates, but schemes for the improvement of the management of estates in Bakarganj and Chittagong were under consideration. A sum of Rs. 3,11,214 was sanctioned by Government for expenditure during the year for management and improvements. The cost of management, including cost of collection, amounted to 7·4 per cent. and the cost of improvements to 3·4 per cent. of the current revenue demand. The raiyatwari settlement of Char Mir Mahmad Ali, Part I, in the district of Noakhali, was finally concluded during the year, 11,793 acres being settled in 1,330 holdings with a progressive rental rising from Rs. 1,741 in 1906-1907 to Rs. 37,905 in 1907-1908. Colonisation work in the Sundarbans progressed satisfactorily, 4,207 acres being settled with 341 new tenants. A sum of Rs. 43,720 was spent on improvements, and it is estimated that one-eighth of the area colonised has been made fit for cultivation. The number of schools in Government estates varied during the year. Expenditure decreased but the number of pupils on the rolls showed an increase. Four new girls' schools were opened in the district of Bogra in villages peopled almost entirely by Muhammadans.

SECTION 6.—Wards' and Attached Estates.

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Wards', Attached and Trust Estates in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908-1909.]

Revenue, Rent and Cesses due to Government and superior landlords.

58. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards (48) remained unchanged, as four new estates were taken in charge during the year and four were released. The total amount of revenue and cesses due to Government for the year was Rs. 10,15,024, including an arrear demand of Rs. 1,24,605. Payments amounted to Rs. 9,17,923 or 90·43 per cent. of the demand, as compared with 87·79 per cent. in the previous year. Out of the balance of Rs. 97,101, Rs. 81,029 were due from the estate of Sir Sourindra Mohun Tagore, which is heavily involved in debt. The payment on account of rents and cesses due to superior landlords amounted to 63·88 per cent. on the total demand, the unpaid balance at the close of the year being Rs. 2,58,360, most of which was due from the encumbered estates of the district of Bakarganj.

Rent and Cesses due to the Estates.

59. The demand for rent and cesses due to the estates under management amounted to Rs. 66,72,841, but this included an arrear demand of no less than Rs. 44,00,633. A sum of Rs. 27,93,553, or 41·8 per cent. against 46·1 per cent. in the previous year, was collected. The percentage of collections on the current demand was 100·7 against 108·8. The falling off was most marked in the Rajshahi Division and was due to the prevalence of scarcity there. There was a slight increase in the number of certificates issued, and the percentage of recoveries on the total claim rose from 40·1 to 52·8 per cent. The number of civil suits filed was 1,116, but of the total amount decreed in civil suits during the year only 36·5 per cent. was recovered, as compared with 59·4 in the previous year. In addition there were 1,176 suits filed in connection with the estates of Nawab Sir Salimullah Bahadur, K.C.S.I., and his co-sharers in Dacca, in which Rs. 76,517 were decreed and Rs. 41,066 recovered during the year.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Debts.

60. The total amount of the debts due from the estates at the close of the year, excluding arrears of revenue, rent and cesses, was Rs. 59,83,798, out of which the Bakarganj estates alone were responsible for Rs. 35,11,017. During the year debts amounting to Rs. 6,20,589 were paid off.

Management charges.

61. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 12·8 per cent. against 12·6 per cent. in the preceding year, special causes contributing to keep the figure up in spite of notable economies effected in the district of Bakarganj, the district of Chittagong and the Rajshahi Division.

Schools and Dispensaries and Improvements.

62. Most of the estates in the Dacca Division are heavily embarrassed and could not afford to incur heavy expenditure on schools or dispensaries. In the Dakhin-Shahbazpur estate in Bakarganj, however, Rs. 7,468 were spent, and in the estates of the Nawab of Dacca and his co-sharers the outlay on schools and dispensaries was Rs. 6,598, of which the share of the wards of the Court amounted to Rs. 2,309. In the Kasim Bazar estate in the district of Tippera the expenditure on works of improvement was Rs. 21,439. In the Rajshahi Division the expenditure decreased, but its proportion to the net receipts rose from 6·5 to 10·7.

SECTION 7.—Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908-1909.]

Relations between Landlords and Tenants.

63. Both landlords and tenants are gradually becoming better acquainted with the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and in some cases the tenants have even ventured to assert their rights in courts of law. The prosperity and progress of the cultivating classes cannot but be seriously hampered by their continued ignorance of their rights and responsibilities under the land law of the province, and only by means of the extension of operations for the preparation of records-of-rights can these rights and responsiblities be brought home to them. Increased knowledge on the tenant's side will probably beget an increase of respect in his landlord, and litigation between these classes will be more frequently avoided. In the Pabna district there is considerable disagreement between landlords and their tenants as regards the standard of measurement and the rates of rent, and the raiyats are reported to be anxiously awaiting the preparation of a record-of-rights.

Working of the Tenancy Act.

64. The provisions of Sections 56 and 57 of the Act are not strictly complied with, and proper receipts are in many cases not granted by the agents of the landlords for rent paid. Landlords have been warned that Section 58 will be strictly enforced, and powers of a Collector under that section have been vested in the Settlement Officers in charge of Major Settlements who are more in touch with the zamindars and the raiyats than the ordinary district staff and have more time and opportunity to enquire into cases of alleged breach of the law. A large decrease occurred in transfers by voluntary sale, which is attributed to an improvement in the condition of the tenants in general. There was a slight rise in the number of transfers by decree sale and a more marked increase in transfers by succession, which was due to improved registration. The percentage of landlords' fees claimed by and paid over to landlords was the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 8·6. In many cases the fees remained unclaimed on account of their small value, but it is clear that the fears of the landholding class that the acceptance of the fees would be tantamount to an admission of the transfers have not yet been dissipated. In the course of the settlement operations in Bakarganj 1,451 cases were instituted for the commutation of rent payable in kind. The number of applications for the registration of improvements rose from 75 to 108, most of them being filed by Managers of Government Estates.

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CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—Legislating Authority.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1903-1906, Part II, pages 119-120.]

SECTION 2.—Course of Legislation.

Acts and Bills.

65. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Tenancy Amendment Act (I of 1908), which had been introduced in Council in the previous year, was passed on the 4th May 1908 and received the assent of the Governor-General in Council on the 25th May.

The Eastern Bengal and Assam General Clauses Bill (Act I of 1909) was introduced in the year under review, but did not become law until after the close of the year. A Bill to amend and consolidate the Excise Law was introduced in Council on the 25th May 1909.

Extension of Acts.

66. The following Acts were extended to various parts of the province :—

(1) The Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act, I of 1895, to the Chittagong Hill Tracts and to the district of Sylhet.

(2) Section 34 of Act V of 1861 to the Tezpur Municipality in Darrang and to the town of Balurghat in Dinajpur.

(3) Sections 3-12 and 14-17 of the Gambling Act, III of 1867, to the Lumding Railway Station and all places within a radius of three miles therefrom.

(4) The Eastern Bengal and Assam Court of Wards Amendment Act, III of 1907, to the plains districts of Assam.

(5) The Provincial Insolvency Act, III of 1907, to the plains districts of Assam and to the district of Jalpaiguri.

(6) The Bengal Tenancy Validation and Amendment Act, I of 1903, and the Eastern Bengal and Assam Tenancy Amendment Act, I of 1906, to the whole of the Jalpaiguri district, but subject to certain restrictions and modifications in their application to the Western Duars.

(7) The Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, to the Sadr Subdivision of the district of Darrang and to the town of Jorhat in the district of Sibsagar.

(8) The Civil Procedure Code Act, V of 1908, to the plains districts of Assam and the Jalpaiguri district in Eastern Bengal.

(9) The Eastern Bengal and Assam Disorderly Houses Act, II of 1907, to the Cantonment at Shillong.

(10) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, XI of 1890, to the Tezpur Municipality and to the Gauhati-Shillong cart road.

(11) Bengal Act, III of 1869 (arrest of persons for cruelty to animals), to the Tezpur Municipality.

(12) Part VI of the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, to the Patuakhali Municipality in the district of Bakarganj.

(13) Sections 245-248 of the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, to the Sylhet Municipality.

SECTION 3.—Police.

[*See* Report on the Police Administration of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

MILITARY POLICE.

Cost.

67. The total cost for the Military Police for the year was Rs. 10,58,145, as compared with Rs. 9,70,280 in the preceding year. The increase in cost was chiefly due to additions to the new Dacca Battalion, to the raising of the sepoys' pay in April 1908 and to heavier expenditure on clothing.

Efficiency.

68. The discipline was generally good, but the Lakhimpur Battalion suffered to some extent from the deputation of so large a portion of the force to Eastern Bengal. The men of the Garo Hills Battalion were poor in drill, but in other battalions the drill was fair. The Naga Hills and the Lakhimpur Battalions distinguished themselves in signal.ling Further modifications were made during the year in the revised course of musketry introduced in the previous year.

PROTECTION.

Enlistment. 69. Three hundred and sixty-one men were enlisted in the year against 299 in the preceding year. The percentage of Gurkhas rose to 75·9. The class of recruits on the whole was good.

Casualties. 70. There were only 3 desertions against 26 in 1907 and 46 resignations against 64. This satisfactory decrease in the number of desertions and resignations was probably due to the increase of pay sanctioned during the year. There were 15 dismissals, 3 less than in 1907.

Health. 71. The health of the force was unfortunately not so good as in the previous year. The percentage of admissions to hospital to actual strength rose from 81·6 to 108·9, and the total number of deaths increased from 26 to 45.

Military operations. 72. A detachment of the Lakhimpur Military Police Battalion consisting of 3 native officers and 150 men under Captain C. Bliss accompanied Mr. Williamson, Assistant Political Officer, Sadiya, on an expedition to the Rangpang Naga country. The object of the expedition was to punish the inhabitants of a village named Rashi for taking heads in the Sarkari Naga country.

Miscellaneous extra duties. 73. Detachments from the different battalions were sent to Dacca, Barisal, Jalpaiguri and Comilla during the year. The men of the Dacca Battalion were called out on several occasions on special duty.

CIVIL POLICE.

Strength of the force. 74. The total sanctioned strength of the Civil Police force, officers and men, rose from 10,228 in 1907 to 10,621. One Superintendent, 18 Inspectors, 28 Sub-Inspectors, 4 Sergeants, 104 Head Constables and 253 Constables were added to the sanctioned cadre. The posts of 15 town chaukidars were abolished in accordance with the scheme to replace town chaukidars by constables. In consideration of the extra work necessitated by the unrest prevailing in certain districts of the province, the sanction of the Government of India was obtained to the loan for two years of the services of four Police officers from other provinces for employment as Additional Superintendents of Police. The actual strength of the force rose from 9,895 in 1907 to 10,594.

Armed Reserve. 75. The total permanent strength of the Armed Reserve was 10 Inspectors, 22 Sub-Inspectors, 68 Head Constables and 827 Constables, an increase of 8, 5, 14 and 167, respectively, on the previous year's strength.

Ordinary Reserve. 76. In most districts inconvenience was felt from the dearth of men in the ordinary reserve. It was seldom found possible to attain to the standard prescribed by the Police Commission of 15 per cent. of the sanctioned force, and in some of the Assam ditricts even this percentage was found to be too low.

Cost. 77. The total cost of the Civil Police during the year was Rs. 37,64,081.

Discipline. 78. In the Armed Reserve discipline was good. In only three or four districts was the discipline of other branches of the force altogether satisfactory. In Assam local recruits are impatient of discipline and resign if subjected to it to any degree.

Recruitment. 79. The total number of recruits enlisted during the year was 1,154, against 1,422 in 1907. Local recruits numbered 542, of whom 208 or 38·3 per cent. were Muhammadans and 202 or 37·3 per cent. Hindus. In the preceding year 58·7 per cent. of the local recruits were Muhammadans. Of the total number of recruits in the year under report 22·0 per cent. were Muhammadans, against 35·5 in 1907. The falling off in the proportion of Muhammadans is unsatisfactory and indicates that Superintendents of Police have already begun to overlook the importance of obtaining a reasonable proportion of Muhammadan recruits. The difficulty in obtaining good local recruits is very serious.

Casualties and health. 80. Casualties increased from 760 in 1907 to 924. In spite of an increase in the pay of constables, resignations rose from 270 to 343. It is not impossible that the constant abuse to which the Police are subjected in Indian newspapers and in the Law Courts is tending to make the service unpopular. The health statistics were less favourable than in 1907. Sickness increased and deaths rose from 145 to 174.

Railway Police. 81. The Police control of the northern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, the Cooch Behar State Railway and the Bengal Duars Railway was transferred from Bengal to this Government on the 1st January 1908, and a second Superintendent was sanctioned for this new Railway Police district. In consequence of the prevalence of theft and robbery on the Assam-Bengal Railway a Committee of Enquiry was appointed. In accordance with the Committee's recommendations the staff of the Assam-Bengal Railway Police was strengthened. The Railway Authorities also introduced several precautionary measures. Thefts in running trains have in consequence practically ceased and crime connected with the railway and jetties in and round

Chittagong has been greatly reduced. Service in the Railway Police has hitherto been unpopular owing mainly to overwork and bad accommodation. Improved accommodation will be provided in the current year and steps have already been taken to strengthen the staff. With the removal of these grounds for complaint the service should no longer be unpopular.

The number of true cases reported to the Railway Police during the year was 1,131 and 315 were tried and decided. The percentage of convictions to cases decided was 80·6 compared with 79·2 in 1907.

River Police.

82. The strength of the River Police was increased by the appointment of an additional Sub-Inspector. Special arrangements were made during the year to protect from the depredation of organized gangs of robbers the large sums of money which are conveyed from place to place during the jute season. The scheme included the establishment of temporary armed police posts at certain centres and the employment of four armed launch patrols on the main rivers.

Improvements introduced during the year.

83. The chief improvements introduced during the year were:—

(1) The grant of approved service increments of pay.

(2) The opening of a training school for constables at Silchar. A second school at Rampur-Boalia was sanctioned, but was not opened till the beginning of the current year.

(3) The appointment of six prosecuting Inspectors.

Conduct of the Police.

84. The conduct of the force was on the whole satisfactory. There was a large number of criminal cases brought against police officers, but in very few were the charges proved and the accused convicted. In a large majority the complaints were dismissed or the cases were declared false on enquiry. The practice of bringing false charges against the police has become very common, and it is desirable that the complainants in such cases should be punished. Every charge brought is printed with head lines in the less respectable papers, but when a case is refuted or fails, mention is rarely made of the fact.

Union and Town Police.

85. Town chaukidars have been pronounced incapable and unsatisfactory, but the scheme to replace them by constables has made little progress during the year.

Rural Police.

The work of the village chaukidars was reported to be unsatisfactory in most districts, but the amount of good work done by chaukidars depends almost entirely on the amount of interest which officers in charge of police stations give to the matter and the extent to which they get into personal touch with their chaukidars.

Cost.

86. The total cost of the Police Department during the year was Rs. 48,22,226, an increase of Rs. 7,00,538 on the figures for 1907. Increase in the strength of the force, reorganization of establishments, provision of launches and construction of new buildings were the main causes of the large increase.

Crime statistics.

87. The total number of cognizable offences reported to the police was 56,617, including cases pending from the previous year. Investigation was refused under section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code in 24·7 per cent. of the cases. Investigation was made in 40,479 cases or 71·4 per cent. and 16,143 cases or 39·8 per cent. were sent up for trial, against 73·6 and 40·3 per cent., respectively, in 1907. Of the cases decided convictions were obtained in 84·0 per cent. compared with 75·4 in the preceding year. In short, while the proportion of cases sent up was less than in 1907, the proportion of convictions was much greater. In addition to these cases, 1,719 cases instituted before Magistrates were referred to the police for enquiry, of which only 361 were sent up for trial. This is no criterion of police work, as many of these cases instituted by petition are of a civil nature or false or due to mistakes of law or fact or non-cognizable.

False cases.

88. The number of cases found by Magistrates to be maliciously false was 1,532 and complainants were prosecuted in 188 cases, the percentage remaining almost the same as in 1907. In 71 cases or 37·7 per cent. against 81 cases or 39·5 per cent. in 1907 convictions were obtained. The results cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Compensation under section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code was awarded in only 74 cases compared with 88 in the previous year.

Criminal Investigation Department.

89. Much of the time of the Criminal Investigation staff was taken up with enquiries into quasi-political crime and matters connected therewith and they were not therefore able to devote as much time as they would otherwise have done to the work in connection with organized and professional crime of other descriptions. During the year a new form of crime sprang into existence, namely, dacoities committed by men or youths of the educated classes, ostensibly as a means of obtaining funds to carry on a campaign of agitation against Government. There were four such dacoities during the year, in all of which the dacoits were armed with guns and revolvers.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice.

Plains Districts.

[*See* Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1908; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Judicial staff.

90. Thirteen Sessions Judges and two Additional Sessions Judges were employed throughout the year and a third Additional Sessions Judge was added to the permanent staff during the year. In addition to the permanent staff, Additional Sessions Judges were employed in Dacca, Faridpur and Mymensingh for temporary periods during the year and a Subordinate Judge vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge was employed temporarily in Dacca

The Magisterial staff consisted of 231 Stipendiary and 322 Honorary Magistrates, a decrease of 13 and 30, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. Three Special Magistrates appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure were employed at Hatiya in the district of Noakhali, at Jalpaiguri and in the district of Lakhimpur, respectively.

Offences reported.

91. There were 133,323 criminal offences reported during the year, an increase of 1,219 on the figures of 1907. Offences under the Penal Code increased by 1,881 and were more numerous than in any previous year during the decade.

Results of enquiry.

92. Including the cases pending enquiry at the close of 1907, the number of cases found to be false or in which complaints were dismissed was 44,852 or 33·6 per cent. of the number reported, compared with 32·9 in the previous year. The number of cases found to be true was 88,503, and of these 60,409 were brought to trial. The corresponding figures for 1907 were 88,178 and 61,356.

Original Jurisdiction.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

Cases disposed of.

93. In 1908 Magistrates disposed of 60,324 cases, or 1,021 less than in 1907 and had 3,206 cases pending at the close of the year. Of the total number of cases 819 were committed or referred to the Sessions and 59,505 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In these latter 46·1 per cent. of the accused were convicted compared with 47·1 in 1907.

Punishments.

94. The sentences passed were as follows:—

Imprisonment	Rigorous	...	11,364
	Simple	...	431
Fine	With imprisonment	...	1,641
	Without imprisonment	...	23,620
Whipping	Sole punishment	...	195
	Additional punishment	...	40

The number of persons punished with whipping shows a marked decrease as compared with the three preceding years.

In addition to substantive punishments 7,049 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, 123 less than in 1907. One hundred and eighty-six persons were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 3,46,879. During the year Rs. 3,08,179 were realized, and Rs. 54,410 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

95. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by Magistrates during the year:—

There were 3,191 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 12,325 persons were involved. The number of cases and of persons involved therein, though less than in 1907, was higher than in any of the preceding years since 1898. Of the persons concerned 5,782 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction.

In 578 cases 1,574 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 1,188. Of these, 1,045 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 115 after reference to the Court of Sessions under section 123 of the Code. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 498 cases. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code involving questions of the possession of land decided by Magistrates during the year was 1,086, a decrease

of 4 on the figures for 1907. Under section 250 of the Code 364 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, the accusations brought by them having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 474 persons, and orders were made absolute against 180.

Witnesses.

96. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates was 235,775, as compared with 229,298 in 1907. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 91,919, or 28 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year the percentage was 28·8. Of the total number in attendance, 77·3 per cent. were discharged on the first day, 17·3 per cent. on the second, 4·3 per cent. on the third, and 1·1 per cent. after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 437 less than the number so detained in 1907.

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments, etc.

97. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 819, or 52 more and the number disposed of, including pending cases of the previous year, was 812, or 34 more than in 1907. There were 103 cases pending at the close of the year.

Results of trials.

98. There were 2,005 persons, or 150 more than in 1907, under trial before Courts of Session during the year. The cases of 1,727 persons were decided and 263 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 1,727 persons tried 1,036, or 59·9 per cent., as against 62·7 per cent. in 1907, were convicted, and 644 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 47 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

99. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year :—

Death		19
Transportation	For life	75
	For a term of years	10
Imprisonment	Rigorous	827
	Simple	2
Fine		28
Whipping		1

Besides the above, 115 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (9 for terms not exceeding one year and 106 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and 14 persons who had been convicted of an offence involving a breach of the peace were required to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment.

Jury trials.

100. The number of persons tried by jury during 1908 was 586, and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judges approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 513 persons and disapproved of it in respect of 73. In the case of 28 persons the Sessions Judges disagreed with the verdict so completely as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to make a reference to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given below under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision".

Trials by Assessors.

101. The number of persons tried with the aid of Assessors during the year under review was 867, with the result that in the case of 596 persons the Sessions Judges concurred with the opinion of both the Assessors; in the case of 144 they differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 127 they differed from the opinion of both. The corresponding figures for 1907 were 877, 536, 205 and 136, respectively.

Duration of cases.

102. The average duration of Sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, was 39·9 days, as compared with 41·3 days in 1907.

Witnesses.

103. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 15,682, of whom 8,754 were examined, and 6,928 discharged without examination. In 1907 the corresponding figures were 7,878 and 6,049, respectively. Of the total number in attendance 6,658 (42·4 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 4,434 (28·3 per cent.) on the second day, 2,257 (14·4 per cent.) on the third day and 2,333 (14·9 per cent.) after the third day. The results are satisfactory, as showing that witnesses were detained for appreciably shorter periods than in 1907.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals before the High Court.

104. At the beginning of 1908, there were 20 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year 370 appeals were preferred and the same number was decided, leaving 20 pending at its close. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 295 instances, reversed in 22, and modified in 45. Seven cases were remanded for re-trial. The percentage of appellants who were entirely unsuccessful was 84·3, against 78·9 in 1907. One appeal by the Local Government against an order of acquittal was decided during the year. In appeal the order of acquittal was reversed and the accused was directed to be re-tried on the charges originally framed against him.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

105. There were 121 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the beginning of the year. During the year 2,872 appeals were preferred; of these 2,867 were decided and 123 were pending at the close of the year. In the appeals decided by Sessions Judges during 1908, 4,877 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,329 of these, or 27·2 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 1,907 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 590 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; 984 were acquitted; and in the case of 67 appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 66·3, 12·9 and 20·1, respectively. The results were less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

Magistrates' Courts.

106. In the Courts of Magistrates there were 133 appeals pending at the beginning of the year, and during the year 2,374 appeals were preferred; of these 2,383 were decided and 124 were pending at the close of the year. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 4,016. Of these, the appeals of 515 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 1,982, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 2,497 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 62·1 per cent. Of the remainder 475 appellants, or 11·8 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, 1,009, or 25·1 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 35 appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. These results were more favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under Section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

107. Twenty-one cases of references from verdicts of juries were disposed of in 1908 with the result that the verdict of the jury was accepted in 4 cases, set aside in 13, and modified in 4.

References under Section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

108. Nineteen references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were decided during the year. In the references decided 20 persons were concerned. Of these, the death sentence on 10 was confirmed, and in the cases of 6 the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. The remaining four persons were acquitted.

Revision.

109. During the year 115 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 3 were pending at the opening of the year. All of these but three were decided during the year. In 55 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 18 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 12 cases. In the remaining 30 cases the High Court declined to interfere.

Orders were passed under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in 507 cases, an increase of 29 on the figures of the previous year. Of these 504 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 3 were taken up on review of the periodical Sessions Statements submitted by Sessions Judges.

Of the applications for the issue of rules 311 were rejected. Of 193 rules issued 70 were finally discharged; 70 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 27 cases and the proceedings quashed in 1, and in 25 cases a new trial was ordered.

Of the 3 cases taken up by the High Court on review of Sessions Statements in 2 the orders passed by the Lower Courts were not disturbed and in 1 the sentence was reduced.

110. Forty-seven applications, under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the transfer of cases from one Court or district to another, were made in 1908, and one was pending from the preceding year. Forty-seven were dealt with during the year and one remained pending at its close. Of the 47 dealt with 19 were summarily rejected, and in 1 case transfer was granted without issue of a rule. In 27 cases rules were issued, with the result that transfers were granted in 23 and refused in 4 cases. Applications for transfer.

II.— Courts subordinate to the High Court.

111. The cases of 5,352 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session during the year. The applications of 1,854 persons were rejected, and as regards 1,555 the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 52 persons were reversed; in 9 instances proceedings were quashed; and the order of the Lower Court was modified in the case of 5 persons. In the cases of 1,670 persons new trials or further inquiries were directed, and the cases of 207 persons were referred to the High Court. Sessions Courts.

112. The cases of 2,484 accused persons came before District Magistrates for revision. The applications of 718 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 952 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 22 persons were modified, and those affecting 133 were reversed. In the cases of 25 persons proceedings were quashed, and in those of 612 persons new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 22 persons were referred to the High Court. Magistrates' Courts.

General.

113. The cases of 11 European British subjects were decided during the year, against 12 in 1907. Eight were dealt with by Magistrates and 3 by Courts of Session. Of the accused persons, none of whom claimed to be tried by a mixed jury, 4 were convicted and 7 acquitted. The convictions were in 3 cases for offences under special and local laws, and in 1 case for an offence affecting the human body. The persons whose cases were tried by the Sessions Court were charged with offences affecting life and were acquitted. Trials of European British subjects.

114. During the year under report eight cases came before Government under the provisions of section 401 of the Criminal Procedure Code for the exercise of the power of suspension of sentence or the prerogative of mercy. In three cases sentences were suspended for various periods for the purposes of criminal investigation; in four cases sentences of rigorous imprisonment were remitted, and in one case a sentence of transportation for life was commuted to one of rigorous imprisonment. References to Government.

115. One of the noticeable features in the returns of 1908, as in the previous year, was the appearance of a number of offences against the State. Ten persons, against 7 in 1907, were under trial for such offences, *viz.*, 8 in Bakarganj and 2 in Tippera. Of these, 2 were convicted, 1 was acquitted or discharged, and 7 remained under trial at the close of the year. Twenty persons, against 3 in 1907, were proceeded against under section 108 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for disseminating seditious matter, *viz.*, 8 in Bakarganj, 7 in Mymensingh, 3 in Dacca, and 1 each in Rajshahi and Jalpaiguri. Offences against the State.

116. The total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 15,56,350. The receipts amounted to Rs. 8,25,697. The receipts and the charges exceed those of 1907 by over fifty-one thousand, and one lakh and fifty-one thousand rupees, respectively. Receipts and charges.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

117. A further decrease occurred in the number of criminal cases brought to trial in the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts. There were 872 cases brought to trial, as compared with 941 in 1907, and the number disposed of was 827, in which 1,466 persons were implicated. The percentage of convictions was 63·2 against 59 in the previous year. Fifty appeals were preferred to District Magistrates or Courts of Sessions during the year, and 50 were decided. The appeals of 41 persons were summarily rejected. The Lower Courts' orders were confirmed in the cases of 31 persons, reversed in the cases of 14 and modified in the cases of 5. The appeals of 9 persons were disposed of by the Local Government. In 8 cases the appeals were rejected, and in the remaining case the order of the Lower Court was upheld. Criminal Justice in Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

SECTION 5.—Jails.

[*See* Report on the Jail Administration of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Genral. 118. There were 25 permanent and 34 subsidiary jails open at the close of the year. The change in comparison with the figures of 1907 was due to the fact that during the year the subsidiary jails at Kohima, Aijal, Dhubri and Nowgong were raised to the status of district jails. There were 7,937 prisoners in jails at the beginning of the year and 7,537 at its close. The number admitted during the year was 36,821. There was a decrease of 332·47 in the daily total average population compared with last year, which was partly due to the concessions of release and remission granted on account of the Proclamation Anniversary on the 2nd November 1908. Sixty-five per cent. of the convicts admitted were Muhammadans and 32·12 per cent. Hindus. Forty-eight juveniles and 329 females were imprisoned during the year. Of the total number of convicts 91·65 per cent. were illiterate. There was a slight rise in the number of habitual offenders.

Under-trial prisoners. 119. There were at the beginning of the year 787 under-trial prisoners in jail and 1,046 at its close. The number admitted during the year was 15,714. The average period of detention of such prisoners in Magistrates' cases was 15·72 days.

Civil prisoners. 120. The number of civil prisoners received during the year was 197, the same as in 1907.

Discipline. 121. Sixteen prisoners escaped during the year and 11 of them, in addition to 3 who had escaped previously, were recaptured. Most of the 16 escapes were from Assam jails. Proposals for reorganizing the warder service in Assam have been submitted to Government, and it is hoped that when they have been carried into effect the number of escapes will be reduced. There were 6,951 offences committed by convicts during the year compared with 7,247 in the previous year. Out of a total of 6,998 punishments imposed only 495 were major punishments.

Health. 122. The daily average number of sick prisoners was low and the ratio per mille of average strength the lowest during the last ten years. In spite of this the death rate rose to 31·29 per mille against 28·40 in the previous year. The death rate was highest in the jails at Rampur-Boalia, Gauhati and Rangpur, and is stated there to have been mainly due to the admission of prisoners in indifferent health.

Employment of convicts. 123. Convicts were employed on jail duties, repairs, unremunerative labour and manufactures. The daily average number employed on manufactures was 2,880·48, a percentage of 42·40. There was a cash profit of Rs. 1,21,224 from manufactures, compared with Rs. 28,863 in 1907, a striking increase. The establishment of the Jail Press at Dacca opened a new form of employment for a large number of convicts. The average number employed daily in the Press was 136·28 and their total earnings were Rs. 9,445 or Rs. 69-5 per head.

Finance. 124. The total expenditure of the Department was Rs. 8,58,664 compared with Rs. 9,01,348 in the previous year. The average cost per prisoner was Rs. 110-8-11.

SECTION 6.—Civil Justice.

Plains Districts.

[*See* Report on Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1908; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Judicial Staff. 125. The permanent Civil Judicial staff was increased during the year by one additional District and Sessions Judge, one Subordinate Judge and two Munsifs.

In addition to the permanent staff temporary Additional Subordinate Judges were employed for part of the year at Sylhet, Noakhali, Dacca and Chittagong. A temporary Additional Munsif was employed in Dacca and another in Mymensingh from the beginning of the year, but these two appointments were permanently added to the staff from the 8th March and 24th July, respectively. Two more temporary appointments were sanctioned for the district of Mymensingh, one from the 20th March to the 24th September for the Sadar station and the other at Iswarganj from 4th November till the end of the year.

Original Jurisdiction. 126. The number of original suits instituted was 3,87,208, an increase of 24,732 on that of the previous year. There were 1,94,021 suits for money or moveables, 1,50,514 rent suits and 42,673 title and other suits. The value of suits instituted during the year amounted to Rs. 3,73,80,885.

Local Distribution.

127. Dacca had the largest number of institutions (49,119). The other districts with over 40,000 were Mymensingh, Bakarganj and Tippera.

Disposal of suits.

128. Including the suits which were pending at the beginning of the year and those which were revived or received on remand or review during the year, there were in all 4,64,273 suits for disposal. This is the highest number since 1898 and represents an increase of 37,585 on that of the previous year. The number disposed of was 3,90,038, exceeding the total of the previous year by 33,642. There was a considerable increase of disposals in the Munsifs' Courts and in the Courts of Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges, but the disposals by District and Additional Judges fell from 370 to 196.

Duration of suits.

129. The average duration of suits is shown in the following statement :—

—		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
1		2	3	4	5
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure	Contested ...	216	421	109	...
	Uncontested	194	209	88	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested ...	.....	67	58	87
	Uncontested	.....	46	44	52

The results were not so good as in the previous year. There was an increase in the duration of suits tried by all classes of Courts except in contested suits tried under the ordinary procedure by District Judges and Munsifs. The increase was most marked in the Courts of Subordinate Judges.

Pending suits.

130. The number of suits pending at the close of the year rose from 70,416 to 74,280. The rise was due to the large number of institutions during the year.

Execution Proceedings.

131. There were 55,385 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year and 2,75,705 such applications were made during the year. Full satisfaction was obtained in 67,173 and partial satisfaction in 55,476 cases. In 1,45,779 cases the proceedings were returned as infructuous and 57,306 were pending at the close of the year. The proportion of infructuous proceedings was higher than in the preceding year. The total amount realized in courts other than Small Cause Courts fell from Rs. 82,70,827 to Rs. 79,47,380.

The coercive measures employed were imprisonment of judgment-debtors in 142 cases, arrest followed by release in 657 cases, sale of moveable and immoveable property in 6,175 and 26,327 cases, respectively, and attachment of property followed by its release in 22,201 cases. Possession of immoveable property was given in 12,489 cases.

Miscellaneous Proceedings.

132. The number of cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings instituted and disposed of during the year was 37,836 and 38,250, respectively. There were 5,527 miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted and 5,537 disposed of during the year.

Appellate Jurisdiction. The High Court.

133. There were 3,739 appeals for disposal by the High Court, 1,579 preferred during the year and 2,160 pending from the previous year. The High Court disposed of 1,243, leaving 2,496 pending at the close of the year. The appellants were entirely unsuccessful in 77·4 per cent. of the decided cases.

Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

134. There were 10,680 appeals instituted during the year, 575 more than in 1907. The proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of Revenue Officers, was 22·6 per cent. The number of appeals disposed of was 11,093, an increase of 1,047 over the figures of the previous year. The increase was due partly to the better outturn of individual officers and partly to additional assistance given during the year. There were 5,664 appeals pending at the close of the year, 245 less than at the end of 1907. In 55·6 per cent. of the decided cases the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed; in 13·2 per cent. it was modified; and in 14·5 per cent. it was reversed. Five hundred and seventeen appeals were remanded and 1,322 were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default.

Miscellaneous appeals.

135. There were 1,536 miscellaneous appeals instituted during the year and 1,663 were disposed of, 257 remaining pending at the close of the year.

Receipts and charges.

136. The receipts of the Civil Courts in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year amounted to Rs. 59,90,204, and the charges to Rs. 23,21,867, an increase of Rs. 2,94,404 and Rs. 1,40,123, respectively, on the figures for 1907. Including the amount of Rs. 77,757 realized on account of duty on Probates, etc., there was a profit to Government from Civil litigation of Rs. 36,68,337, which exceeded the profits of 1907 by Rs. 1,54,281

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

Civil Justice in Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

137. The number of civil suits instituted in the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts was 1,569, valued at Rs. 1,36,397. In all there were 1,840 cases for disposal, of which 1,620 were decided. Appeals to District Officers numbered 74, and 62 were decided. The decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed in 40 cases, modified in 5 and reversed in 14, and 3 cases were remanded to the Lower Court. There were 30 appeals to Government, of which 26 were decided. Decisions of the Lower Courts were upheld in 19 cases modified in 4 and reversed in 2, and 1 case was remanded. During the year there were 1,973 applications for the execution of decrees and 1,288 were decided.

SECTION 7.—Registration.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1907-1908; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Administration.

138. With effect from the 1st April 1908, the salaried system was extended to the districts of Cachar and Sylhet, thus bringing them into line with the Eastern Bengal districts.

Registration Offices

139. Eight new Sub-Registry offices were opened during the year: at Gauripur, Sarisabari, Balla, Madarganj, Bakshiganj and Bhairab in Mymensingh, and at Biswanath and Gowainghat in Sylhet. There were altogether 234 offices open at the close of the year.

Documents registered.

140. The total number of deeds registered rose to 888,558 from 862,101 in 1907-1908.

Receipts and Expenditure.

141. The total receipts of the Department rose from Rs. 8,96,062 in 1907-1908 to Rs. 9,51,004, and the total expenditure rose from Rs. 5,73,449 to Rs. 5,79,809.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Acts.

142. There were 187 Muhammadan Marriage Registration offices open in the year under report, compared with 174 in 1907-1908. The results of the year's work were very disappointing, as the total number of ceremonies registered fell from 48,485 to 47,984, and in 12 offices no ceremonies were registered.

The total receipts on account of gratuities and fees received by Muhammadan Marriage Registrars were Rs. 82,501 compared with Rs. 84,096-6.

With the object of improving the qualifications of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis a Departmental Examination was prescribed during the year.

Registration under Act III of 1872.

143. Fourteen marriages were registered under Act III of 1872 during the year. The ages of the bridegrooms ranged from 18 to 53 years and of the brides from 14 to 28. One widow aged 21 years was re-married.

Working of the Indian Companies Act (VI of 1882).

144. At the close of the year there were 109 companies with an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 86,48,400 and an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 50,98,281. There were also two companies limited by guarantee. Twelve new companies and one company limited by guarantee were registered during the year. Three companies ceased to work. One company failed to submit the prescribed returns for three years and omitted to convene the general meetings required by law to be held. The prosecution of the directors was ordered. Six out of the twelve new companies were formed for the purpose of banking and money-lending. In the previous year no companies were registered under this head. This fact and the smaller aggregate capital of the companies registered seem to indicate a check to the growing tendency of the Indian public to invest their money in industrial concerns.

Rupees 1,827-8 were realized as fees during the year.

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration.

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipalities in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1908-1909; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

General.

145. The only important changes in the constitution of the Municipal institutions of the province were the raising of the status of the Tezpur and Jorhat Municipalities and the extension of the latter's boundaries. New by-laws were introduced in the Pirojpur, Narayanganj, Nator, Rampur and Brahmanbaria Municipalities, and by the

extension of certain Acts further powers were given to the Patuakhali, Sylhet and Tezpur Municipalities. The number of meetings fell from 729 to 692 and the percentage of Commissioners attending each meeting from 58·64 to 56·8, indicating a decline of interest in Municipal affairs.

Taxation.

146. The percentage of rate-payers to urban population remained the same as in the previous year, 16·9. The tax on holdings was in force in 15 Municipalities only, the alternative tax on persons being still preferred by the majority. In Rampur-Boalia and Rangpur, however, arrangements were made to introduce the system of taxation on holdings in the current year. A water rate was levied in 4 towns and latrine fees in 37 towns. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was Re. 1-8, the rate varying in the severol Municipalities from Rs. 3-11-3 in Narayanganj to Re. 0-5-6 at Hailakandi. Assessments were revised generally or partially in a majority of the towns and provided for a net increase of income of Rs. 37,526, compared with Rs. 27,213 in 1907-1908. A water rate in Narayanganj and latrine fees in Nawabganj were the only new imposts levied in the year.

Income.

147. The percentage of collections on the current demand fell from 97·8 to 96 per cent. and the percentage of remissions from 2·6 to 2·2, outstandings at the close of the year amounting to 6·7 per cent. of the total demand. The aggregate income of the Municipalities, excluding opening balances, was Rs. 16,96,113 or Rs. 47,560 less than in the previous year. The decrease was more apparent than real, being due to short receipts under grants, contributions and loans. Excluding those heads, the ordinary income increased by Rs. 61,743, "Rates and Taxes" showing an increase of Rs. 27,211. The total grants from Government amounted to Rs. 1,84,154, or nearly 13 per cent. of the year's income. The largest grants made were Rs. 22,500 to Dacca for the maintenance of roads and conservancy, Rs. 35,000 to Narayanganj for the completion of the water-works and the maintenance of roads and Rs. 16,600 to Chittagong for general purposes. The Dacca and English Bazar Municipalities took loans from Government of Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 2,500, respectively.

Expenditure.

148. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 17,83,967 or Rs. 1,19,781 in excess of the expenditure of the previous year, the increase being shared by all the divisions except the Assam Valley Districts. The principal heads under which increases occurred were "Conservancy," "Extraordinary and Debt," "Hospital and Dispensaries," "Schools and Colleges," "Buildings," "Lighting" and "Roads."

Municipal Improvements. (a) Water-supply.

149. The history of the year's work in connection with water-supply is detailed in "Chapter VI—Sanitation." In addition to the completion of the Narayanganj water-works, important schemes have been prepared for improving the water-supply of several Municipalities and the year was one of great progress in this important branch of Municipal administration.

(b) Conservancy.

150. The outlay on "Conservancy" exceeded that of the preceding year by Rs. 68,907, the Dacca Municipality alone showing an increase of Rs. 62,288, which was due to heavy initial expenditure on the new conservancy scheme prepared by the Public Works Department. In Dacca and Rampur-Boalia new slaughter-houses were built. New drains were made in English Bazar, Bogra, Rampur-Boalia, Gauhati and Hailakandi, and two incinerators were erected in Shillong. In many towns jungle was cleared, new latrines were constructed, additional sweepers recruited, night-soil carts purchased and corrugated iron sheds erected for the accommodation of sweepers. The percentage of expenditure on "Conservancy" to the total Municipal expenditure rose from 33·6 to 36·4.

(c) Miscellaneous.

151. The expenditure on "Public Works," "Medical" and "Education" increased by Rs. 6,365, Rs. 16,357 and Rs. 6,829, respectively, but few works of importance were undertaken. Two new roads were made at Goalpara, pucca culverts were constructed at Goalpara and Nawabganj, in Barisal quarters were built for the lady doctor, at Pirojpur sheds for cholera and small-pox wards were erected, and in Dibrugarh the Dighli Bazar Municipal School house was built. In most Municipalities ordinary improvements, such as the repair and metalling of roads, the repair of drains, the extension of lighting by street lamps and the improvement of bazars, were carried out.

Financial position.

152. The total funds available for expenditure, including an opening balance of Rs. 3,74,435, amounted to Rs. 20,70,548, against Rs. 20,42,691 in 1907-1908. A total expenditure of Rs. 17,83,967 was incurred, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 2,86,581 or Rs. 91,924 less than the balance of the previous year. Of the total balance, however, Rs. 31,540 were actually spent during the year but were included under the deposit head, being the value of uncashed cheques. The actual credit balance was, therefore, Rs. 2,55,041. In eight Municipalities the closing balances were too low, while, on the other hand, the balances accumulated by many Municipalities were unnecessarily large.

SECTION 9.—District and Local Boards.

[*See* Resolution on the working of District and Local Boards in Eastern Bengal and Local Boards in Assam during the year 1908-1909 ; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

General.

153. There was practically no change in the constitution of the various District and Local Boards of the province. The Muhammadan community secured a more adequate representation on the Eastern Bengal Boards, the percentage of Muhammadan members rising from 35·7 to 40·7. An increase in the average attendance of members was counterbalanced by a decrease in the number of successful meetings, showing that members generally did not exhibit any keener interest in their work. Important progress, however, was effected in the development of education and the improvement of water-supply and a considerable advance was made in dealing with the work on methodical principles. Great activity was shown by the nine Union Committees of the Chittagong Division, all of which are reported to have done useful work. A proposal to amend the Act by removing the control of the Local Board so as to give these committees enlarged powers in respect of village sanitation and water-supply is now under consideration.

Financial Results.

154. The opening balance of the District and Local Boards was Rs. 22,37,365. Their gross income was Rs. 55,65,078 and their total expenditure Rs. 57,33,771, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 20,68,672. There was a rise of Rs. 5,297 under Provincial Rates, an increase of Rs. 30,692 in Assam more than balancing a decrease in Eastern Bengal. The opening of many new pounds during the year brought in an increase of Rs. 17,613 in revenue under the head "Police." Under the head "Contributions" there was an increase of Rs. 1,60,804, Government grants for expenditure on primary education, communications and water-supply increasing by Rs. 97,356, Rs. 26,000 and Rs. 40,411, respectively. District and Local Boards are heavily subsidised from provincial revenues, 33·3 per cent. of the income of the Eastern Bengal Boards (excluding opening balances and the debt heads) and 36·8 per cent. of the income of the Assam Boards being contributed by Government. The total expenditure, including "Debt," exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 6,86,814, Public Works expenditure having increased by more than four and-a-half lakhs and the outlay on Education by one lakh. The aggregate closing balance of the Boards, excluding deposits and the value of uncashed cheques, fell from Rs. 16,28,447 to Rs. 12,95,163. The amount covered by uncashed cheques was remarkable, the explanation given in most cases being that heavy payments fell due in March and that payees did not cash cheques promptly.

The work of the year. (a) Education.

155. The year was one of great activity in educational work and about 30 per cent. of the Boards' total income was spent on this object. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 14,68,385 and the Government grants were, almost without exception, entirely expended. The Boards concerned themselves mainly with Lower Primary Education. The work of organising new Class I Primary Schools, constructing new buildings and assisting new or hitherto unaided Lower Primary Schools was carried on throughout the province on an extensive scale, and the number of Lower Primary Schools maintained or aided increased by more than 1,600. That social prejudice is giving way before the realization of the benefits of female education is shown by the rapid development of that branch of educational work. The increase in the number of Schools and the number of girls attending them was remarkable. In the Faridpur district alone 134 new girls' schools were opened and 106 in Mymensingh. In technical education, however, no real advance was made.

(b) Medical.

156. The total medical expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,68,824, representing an increase of Rs. 41,600. Seven new dispensaries were opened and six dispensaries which had hitherto been unaided received grants. In Mymensingh auxiliary dispensaries were opened on *hât* days in five *hâts* and the Bakarganj, Rangpur and Dacca Boards deputed Hospital Assistants to attend *hâts* for the purpose of distributing medicine. Several Boards entertained extra doctors to deal with epidemic outbreaks. The Faridpur and Bakarganj Boards distributed eucalyptus oil to thana officers for the treatment of cholera cases and the Dacca and Rangpur Boards made similar experiments with lancets and permanganate of potash, respectively, for snake-bite cases. The Jalpaiguri Board spent Rs. 1,000 on sugar-coated quinine pills for free distribution among the poor, and the Pabna Board made a grant of Rs. 200 to a lady of the Australian Mission for the distribution of medicines to the poor. Lady doctors and midwives were employed by many Boards. The Bogra Board awarded a scholarship of Rs. 10 a month to a Muhammadan lady to enable her to prosecute her studies at the Campbell Medical School, Calcutta. A scheme for the reorganization of dispensaries in the Bakarganj district was completed and came into effect in the

current year. Its main features are a reduction in the number of dispensaries, an improvement in the pay and propects of the Civil Hospital Assistants, the appointment of compounders and the provision of a proper equipment for all dispensaries.

157. Sanitary work was mainly confined to the cutting of jungle, the clearing of tanks and khals, the improvement of drains and other petty works. (c) Sanitation.

158. The total allotments for Public Works amounted to Rs. 33,92,656 and the expenditure to Rs. 29,93,734, as compared with Rs. 28,51,377 and Rs. 25,23,480, respectively, in 1907-1908. The lapse was 11·76 per cent. against 11·5, the failure to spend the allotments being most marked in the Jorhat, Habiganj, Bogra, Gauhati, Dhubri and Malda Boards. (d) Public Works.

159. There was a marked increase in expenditure under this head, the total outlay being Rs. 2,63,587 against Rs. 1,45,221 in the previous year. Liberal grants were made by the Sanitary Board for this purpose. The District Boards of the Dacca Division have initiated the preparation of regular programmes and maps showing the existing sources of water-supply and the localities in urgent need of good water. (e) Water-supply.

160. As in previous years very little expenditure was incurred for the improvement of a in age. In the Dacca Division no such work was undertaken by any Board. In the Rajshahi Division Rs. 4,989 were expended, in the Chittagong Division Rs. 9,923, in the Assam Valley Rs. 2,317 and in the Surma Valley Rs. 443. With the exception of Rs. 651 spent on the cutting of a new drain in Rangpur, the money was spent on repairs and the maintenance of existing works. (f) Drainage.

161. Veterinary charges increased from Rs. 32,996 to Rs. 45,442. Prejudice against the inoculation of cattle is gradually dying out and the Veterinary Assistants are consequently less hampered in their work. In Bakarganj the advantages of veterinary aid are so much appreciated that frequently the first intimation of an outbreak of cattle-disease is a telegram from the villagers asking for a Veterinary Assistant to be sent out. The Veterinary Staff has now been provincialised and Boards will be required to pay a monthly contribution of Rs. 41 towards the salary, etc., of each Assistant whose services are placed at their disposal, charges for house accommodation and travelling allowance being entirely borne by them. (g) Veterinary.

162. An expert weaver was sent from Dacca to Byculla to learn the use of the Salvation Army loom. He was afterwards sent to Ludhiana for further training, and on his return it is intended to establish a School of Weaving in Dacca. An officer of the Salvation Army gave demonstrations in several villages of Bakarganj. The District Board there has since purchased two Salvation Army looms and is also sending a man to Ludhiana to be trained. In Faridpur a sum of Rs. 182 was spent in demonstrating the working of fly-shuttle hand-looms at the Agricultural Exhibition held in January. The Goalpara Board sent five men to the Serampur Weaving School to be trained in the use of the fly-shuttle loom. All five obtained certificates of proficiency. Three of them have brought looms and started weaving for trade purposes. In Jorhat two hand-looms have, at the expense of the Local Board, been at work at girls' schools under the supervision of an instructor. The North Sylhet Local Board continued to entertain a peripatetic instructor in the use of fly-shuttle hand-looms. During the last cold weather 31 pupils were trained by him compared with 13 in the previous year. This instruction is very popular among the Jugis, or weaving class, and nine fly-shuttle looms have been set up by them at their own cost. (h) Industrial development.

No other industrial work was undertaken by any Board beyond continuing grants and scholarships for certain Technical Schools and contributions for prizes at exhibitions. The Mymensingh Board proposed to develop a local industry in cane-work, but was unable to secure the services of an instructor. The one competent local man declined employment under the Board through fear of losing his monopoly. An Industrial Conference was held at Dacca from the 25th February to the 3rd March. The recommendations of the Conference have been generally accepted by the Lieutenant-Governor and are now under the consideration of the Government of India.

163. The Boards of Eastern Bengal incurred an aggregate expenditure of Rs. 11,435 on arboriculture. The largest outlay (Rs. 2,432) was again incurred by Bakarganj in providing iron gabions and maintaining existing trees. New avenues were planted in Noakhali, Mymensingh and Rangpur. The other Boards confined their attention to the up-keep of existing trees and the planting of saplings to fill gaps. Very little was done by the Assam Local Boards. (i) Arboriculture.

SECTION 10.—Military (Volunteering).

Volunteer Corps.

164. The undermentioned Volunteer Corps were in existence in the province during 1908-1909 :—

(*i*) Surma Valley Light Horse.

(*ii*) Assam Valley Light Horse.

(*iii*) Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles.

(*iv*) Assam-Bengal Railway Volunteer Rifles.

The total number of volunteers was :—Officers 102, Rank and file 1,290. The number of reservists was :—Officers 7, Rank and file 181.

The strength of the several corps was as follows :—

—	Officers.	Rank and file.	Reservists.	
			Officers.	Rank and file.
1	2	3	4	5
Surma Valley Light Horse	32	268	...	17
Assam Valley Light Horse	36	386	7	103
Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles	9	272	...	55
Assam-Bengal Railway Volunteer Rifles	25	364	...	6
Total	102	1,290	7	181

Brigade staff.

165. Brigadier-General E. H. Molesworth, C.B., having completed his tenure of command of the Brigade was relieved by Brigadier General H. Bower on the 2nd January 1909. Major G. R. Vanrenen took over the duties of the Officiating Brigade-Major, Assam Brigade, on the 5th April 1909, *vice* Captain C. A. R. Hutchinson.

SECTION 11.—Marine.

The Port of Chittagong.

Financial.

166. The income of the Ordinary Port Fund for the year 1908-1909 amounted to Rs. 1,91,160 as compared with Rs. 2,21,147 in 1907-1908, showing a decrease of Rs. 29,987, or 13·56 per cent. The expenditure (inclusive of the amount spent on capital account) amounted to Rs. 1,72,615, against Rs. 3,15,929 in the previous year.

Improvements to the Port (Revetment).

167. A further grant of Rs. 1,70,601 was placed by Government at the disposal of the Port Commissioners for revetment work and Rs. 2,05,500 were borrowed by them from Government to meet their share of the expenditure. A sum of Rs. 3,99,820 was spent on the work during the year in revetting about 2,200 feet of river bank. A permanent bridge was also constructed over the Duma Khal.

Dredging.

163. The Government grant during the year for the maintenance of the dredger was Rs. 92,000. The expenditure on Capital Account was Rs. 1,255 and on Revenue Account Rs. 98,055, or Rs. 99,308 in all. The dredger worked for about nine months during the year. Dredging operations were carried on during this period mainly on the Outer and Inner Bars and only for a short period on the Ring Bar. The total dredging work done during the year was 6,194,320 cubic feet, against 7,491,000 cubic feet in the previous year. As one dredger is not found sufficient to deal with the work, the question of obtaining a second dredger for the Port is under the consideration of the Commissioners.

Shipping.

169. The total number of vessels of different classes berthed at the Port during the year under report increased by 24, while the aggregate tonnage of the vessels decreased by 42,289. The number of vessels cleared out of the Port during the year, however, increased by 20, with a decrease of 22,005 in their net aggregate tonnage.

Fire at the terminal jetties.

170. A fire occurred during the year at the Railway terminal jetties, destroying bales of jute valued at Rs. 69,000. The loss of property on this occasion was smaller in comparison with the tremendous havoc done by the fires of the preceding year, owing to extensive precautionary measures having been adopted by introducing a hydrant service and erecting fire-proof partition walls and doors in the jetty sheds.

Pilotage Fund.

171. The Chittagong Pilotage Fund (an Excluded Local Fund) was started with effect from the 1st April 1908 with an opening balance of Rs. 6,605. The account of this fund is kept separate from that of the Port Fund. The actual receipts of the fund during the year 1908-1909 amounted to Rs. 21,671, against Rs. 20,249 in the previous year. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 25,651, against Rs. 56,562 of the previous year. With the sanction of the Government of India, the pilotage fees have been raised for a period of three years, and the increased rates were enforced from the 1st February 1909. Pilotage at the Port is non-compulsory at present.

Health of the Port.

172. The general health of the Port was reported to be good during the year under report. No plague case was imported. The medical inspection of passengers proceeding to or arriving from Indian Ports, including Ports in Burma, was entirely discontinued from the 18th January 1909 under orders from the Government of India.

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CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION I.—Agriculture and Horticulture.

[See Report of the Agricultural Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year ending the 30th June 1909.]

General.

173. The laboratory and residence for the Agricultural Experts at Dacca had not been finished by the end of the year. The Fibre Expert continued to make Pusa his headquarters and pursued his study of the races of jute. The experimental cultivation of flax and other fibres also received his attention. The Agricultural Chemist set up a small field laboratory on the Jorhat Farm and did some analytical work with sugar-cane. A Superintendent of Sericulture was appointed during the year. The system of working through Honorary Correspondents and Associates, which was introduced in the previous year, is being gradually developed. They proved very useful to the Department in obtaining information regarding the condition of standing crops. The receipts of the Department amounted to Rs. 9,160-3-1 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,06,121-7-9.

Agricultural Associations.

174. At Bogra and Rangpur are the only two Agricultural Associations now existing. Very little was done by the Bogra Association, which held only one meeting during the year. A fairly extensive programme, including the holding of an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, was decided upon for the current year. The Rangpur Farm was transferred early in the year to the Rangpur Agricultural Association. The Local Government agreed to pay half the gross working expenses of the Farm not exceeding Rs. 3,000 per annum, and permitted the District Board to contribute on a diminishing scale of Rs. 3,000, Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 1,000, respectively, for three years from the 1st August 1908. The principal object of the Farm will be to demonstrate improved methods of cultivation and to help in popularising new and superior varieties of crops by the distribution of seed. Experiments were made during the year with new varieties of potatoes, tobacco, mustard, ginger, wheat, oats and barley.

Agricultural stations.

175. In 1908 most of the land of the Dacca Central Farm was leased to raiyats. In 1909 more cattle were purchased and the cultivation of the whole of the land was taken up by the Department. The season's experiments were confined to paddy. At Rajshahi the extensive paddy experiments, which had been planned, fell through owing to the drought. Successful experiments, however, were made with sugar-cane, jute and potatoes. A new Farm was started at Burirhat (Rangpur) where special experiments will be made in the cultivation of tobacco. A third of the land was put under rabi crops, tobacco, oats, mustard and potatoes. The oats and mustard gave excellent results. At Jorhat the only experimental crop is sugar-cane. Experience there shows that though many of the foreign varieties of cane are better yielders and contain a bigger percentage of sugar than the local varieties, yet they are more susceptible to disease and attacks of animals. In the Upper Shillong Farm experiments with potatoes were continued, cattle-breeding progressed and a small sheep-breeding experiment was started. In the Shillong Fruit Station strawberries, asparagus, sweet potatoes and rhubarb did remarkably well and gave a considerable profit, but the English fruit trees did not prosper. At Wahjain the experiments with lemon-grass oil were continued, but the difficulty of finding a ready market for it still remains to be solved.

Agricultural Development—

176. As an outcome of the difficulties experienced in connection with the supply of seed, a seed store, on a small scale, was opened at Dacca.

(a) Cotton.

177. Experiments with Buri cotton were tried on various hill tracts, but the seed arrived very late and the result of cultivation was in most places disappointing. The District Board of Pabna is reported to have obtained extremely good results with Dharwar-American cotton. Mr S. M. Bose grew two very good samples of cotton at Gopalganj in Faridpur, but in a district like Faridpur there is little room for cotton cultivation.

(b) Jute.

178. Experiments in the cultivation of jute in the Chittagong district were continued during the year under report and were successful in proving that good jute can be grown in that district.

(c) Potatoes.

179. With a view to stimulate the spread of potato cultivation a vernacular notice inviting applications for seed potatoes with a note on the subject of potato cultivation was widely distributed throughout the province. About 250 maunds of Nainital and 170 maunds of Darjeeling seeds were purchased and distributed to applicants. A very large number of persons, official and non-official, was supplied. Successful experiments with potatoes were made in the Lushai Hills by Major Cole, I.A., the Superintendent. Demonstrations of spraying potatoes with Bordeaux mixture as a preventive

of disease were carried out on a more extended scale among the Khasi cultivators. Forty demonstrations were made and in all, except four, the spraying resulted in a clear profit ranging from Rs. 12-8 to as much as Rs. 214-8 per acre. Many Khasi cultivators have been convinced of the utility of the spraying and are trying to obtain pumps.

(d) Sugar-cane.

180. The Dacca *ganderi* cane was successfully tried in Bogra, Goalpara and Gauhati. Sugar manufacture with Hadi's apparatus was started on a fairly extensive scale by Srijut Debeswar Gossain of Barpathar in the Sibsagar district. He is reported to have manufactured 480 maunds of sugar and obtained a profit of Rs. 3,030.

(e) Rice.

181. Encouraging success attended the attempt to introduce terraced rice cultivation among the Ao Nagas at Mokokchang. The yield was quite satisfactory and more land was thereupon terraced and laid out for irrigation. The Subdivisional Officer purchased a pair of bullocks which were used to plough and harrow the land. This is the first time on record of ploughing with bullocks in these hills. The cultivation of wet rice in the villages of the Lushai Hills developed greatly and should prove a permanent success. The Manipuri variety, which is said to be practically as good as the *balam* rice of Bakarganj, did particularly well, and it is hoped shortly to meet the requirements of the garrison from the local supply.

(f) Oranges.

182. The investigation into the orange tree blight was continued, but as yet no definite result has been obtained. Experiments were made with preventive measures, but the results are not yet known.

Live-stock.

183. A scheme for the improvement of poultry in the plains has received the approval of Government. It provides for initiating poultry breeding on a small scale on the Dacca Farm, and work will be started at an early date. The rearing of good and hardy strains of poultry for the purpose of distribution and improvement of local stock has already attained considerable success in the Lushai Hills under the private management of the Superintendent, Major Cole, I.A. The Farm has now been taken over by Government.

Sericulture.

184. All financial and administrative control of the sericultural operations in Malda, Rajshahi and Bogra was transferred during the year from the Bengal Silk Committee to the Agricultural Department of this province. The chief object of the operations will be to produce and sell on business lines the largest possible quantity of guaranteed seed. At the Rajshahi Sericultural School sons of actual silk-worm rearers are trained in the theory and practice of silk-worm culture. The univoltine silk-worm was again reared with success at the Shillong fruit garden.

Exhibitions and Shows.

185. The sixth annual show of field and garden produce was held in Shillong on two days in May 1909. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to visit the show on both days and distributed the prizes. Agricultural shows were held during the year at Falakata (Jalpaiguri) and Comilla, and a cattle show was held at Sylhet.

SECTION 2.—Co-operative Credit Societies.

[*See* Report on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1909.]

Total number of the Societies.

186. The rapid development of Co-operative Credit Societies was one of the most striking features of the year. Ninety rural and six urban societies were organized, and the total number of societies rose from 135 to 231.

Urban Societies.

187. The number, the membership and the capital of Urban Societies increased by 28 per cent., 27·5 per cent. and 77 per cent., respectively. The new society started at Dacca, though registered as an Urban Society, is in reality a central bank for supplying capital to rural societies. This bank is composed of leading Muhammadan gentlemen, and the Board of Directors propose, after making due provision for a reserve fund as required by law, to devote the major portion of the annual profits to the cause of Muhammadan education. More than half the working capital of the Urban Societies is contributed by the members themselves. A marked increase occurred in the deposits of non-members, indicating that public confidence in these banks as a sure investment is steadily growing. In addition to accepting fixed deposits from members, which all Urban Societies do, four of the most advanced societies have also opened current accounts with their members.

The amounts issued as loans to rural societies rose to Rs. 55,377, as compared with Rs. 22,020 in the previous year. The business of issuing loans to members also continued to grow, Rs. 1,21,783 being advanced in 1,011 loans. The repayment of debts on which heavy interest was due was the purpose for which the largest proportion of the loans was taken, but money was borrowed also for reproductive purposes,

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

such as trade and commerce, house-building, purchase of land and agriculture. Taking both kinds of loans together, there was an increase of about 55 per cent. in the business done by these societies. Repayments both of principal and interest were punctually made, except in the case of one rural society, the Secretary of which embezzled the cash balance.

Rural Societies.

188. The number of rural societies increased from 114 to 204, and their capital was more than doubled. The experiment of forming rural societies entirely financed by Government, which was tried in the previous year in the Dewanganj thana of the Mymensingh district, proved so successful in relieving the members of their oppressive debts that the operations were extended in the year under report and many new societies were organised on the same lines. There are now 52 of these societies in the Mymensingh district composed of 936 members with a united capital of Rs. 1,71,999, a large part of which has been contributed by Government.

In addition to the special societies in the Mymensingh district, there are 152 ordinary rural societies with a capital of Rs. 1,81,576, of which 41·4 per cent. was contributed by the members as deposits, 22·6 borrowed from other societies, 29·9 advanced by Government and 6·1 deposited by other non-members. The steady increase in deposits is a satisfactory sign of progress and represents to some extent the result of thrift. The rural societies issued loans to members amounting to Rs. 2,48,071, compared with Rs. 1,55,182 in the previous year. The increase in the volume of business in the year under review over that in 1907-1908 was more than 59 per cent. and over that in 1906-1907 more than 700 per cent. The members are poor cultivators who resort to the societies for relief from the heavy burden of debts to usurers, and their first applications are for loans for repayment of older debts borrowed at ruinous rates of interest. Loans amounting to Rs. 1,33,401 were granted for this purpose. Rs. 32,014 were lent for agriculture and Rs. 38,722 for the purchase of cattle. The amount borrowed for non-productive purposes other than repayment of debts was very small. Repayments were made, as a rule, regularly, and the system of recovery worked smoothly in all societies. Defaulters were rather more numerous, but not a single suit had to be instituted, though a little difficulty was experienced in some societies in recovering overdue loans.

Other Co-operative Societies.

189. Co-operative Stores have been opened as branches of the urban credit societies at Noakhali and Dibrugarh. Two weavers' societies were formed during the year at Jaffrabad in Tippera and Bharenga in Pabna. The members are granted cash loans for the purchase of yarn or yarn is issued to them on credit and they repay the society from the sale price of the woven stuffs.

Final results of the year's working.

190. All the urban societies worked at a profit, the total profits for the year being Rs. 11,316, of which 34 per cent. was put in the reserve fund, 50 per cent. distributed in dividends, 9 per cent. paid as remuneration to office-bearers, 3 per cent. credited to other funds and 4 per cent. carried forward for future distribution. All the rural societies, except one, also worked at a profit, the total profits for the year amounting to Rs. 21,522 against Rs. 8,900 in the previous year. The whole of the profits will be credited to the reserve fund.

SECTION 3.—Weather and Crops.

[*See* Report on the Season and Crops of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908-1909.]

Character of the Seasons.

191. The year was marked by a great deficiency of rainfall. In each season the rains were defective and the whole province was affected by the drought, which resulted in the lowering of percentages on the total crops. The Rajshahi Division suffered most severely from the want of rain.

Area under cultivation

192. In Assam a steady and considerable expansion of the area under cultivation was general. In the Rajshahi Division of Eastern Bengal there was a heavy decrease, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Rajshahi being the districts most affected. The Collector of Dinajpur estimates the contraction in his district at 571,000 acres. Bakarganj and Noakhali were the only two districts in Eastern Bengal where there was a considerable expansion. In the remaining districts there was little change.

Crop areas.

193. The total area under rice may be taken as 16,139,000 acres, or 371,000 acres less than in the previous year. The area under jute fell from 3,000,000 acres to 2,300,000 acres, a decrease which was due to two causes, one physical, *viz.*, the unfavourable weather at the time of sowing and subsequent lack of moisture and the other economic, *viz.*, the low prices prevailing for jute and the high price of paddy in the previous year's market. The areas under rape and mustard, sugarcane, linseed, gram and other pulses also showed considerable decreases. Only *til* and spices had a more extensive cultivation than in the previous year.

194. The failure of the rains emphasised the need for some system of channels by which in years of drought a supply of water could be drawn from available tanks, khals, or reservoirs and in years of plentiful rainfall would act as media for draining off surplus water. It would be necessary also to increase the facilities for storing water against drought. Irrigation.

195. The *boro* and *aus* rice crops yielded about 77 and 93 per cent. of the normal outturns, but as less than the normal area of the former and more of the latter were cultivated, the total yield of these crops is estimated to have been 75 and 106 per cent., respectively, of a normal harvest. The outturn of winter rice was 71 per cent. of a normal harvest. The total rice production of the Province during the year was 5,640,142 tons, or 1,010,273 tons less than in the previous year. The average outturn of the jute crop was estimated in the final forecast at 77 per cent. of a normal yield, and the total yield at 5,244,900 bales, or about 1 per cent. below the average outturn of the preceding ten years. Subsequent experience, however, showed that this estimate was considerably below the actuals, for the reason partly that the area under jute was underestimated and partly that, owing to lack of water for retting and washing, the jute remained in the ground much longer than usual, and its weight when finally cut was much greater than would have been the case if the crop had been cut at the usual time. The mustard and rape, sugarcane and tobacco crops suffered severely and yielded a poor outturn. Outturn per acre and total produce.

196. The price of common rice varied during the year from Rs. 4-2 to Rs. 5-5 per maund. The prices were uniformly lower than in the previous year and at the close of the year were lower than they have been for three years. The average price of jute was Rs. 5-8 per maund on 15th May and Rs. 5-4 on 15th August, compared with Rs. 6-12 and Rs. 5-13 in the previous year. Prices.

SECTION 4.—Forests.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908-1909.]

197. During the year there was a reduction of 239 square miles in the area of reserved forests under the direct control of the Department, the total area at the close of the year being 6,311 square miles. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts the disforestation of 337 square miles of the Miani Valley, Kasalong Reserve, was found to be the only solution of the administrative difficulty caused by the encroachments of 'jhumias.' In Goalpara an addition of 97 square miles was made to the area of the reserves, effect being given to the suggestion made by the Inspector-General of Forests in 1906 that the area along the Aie river should be reserved. The only other changes made were the addition of 820 acres to the Sachaphu Reserve in the Buxa Division and the disforestation of 105 acres of the Dainah Reserve in the Jalpaiguri Division. Satisfactory progress was made in the disposal of pending settlement cases. Of the eight areas under settlement at the close of 1907-1908, two were reserved and settled in the year under review and the reservation of two other areas took effect from the 1st August 1909. The proposal to reserve the Naf Sundarbans Forest in Chittagong was finally abandoned, but no decision has yet been arrived at in regard to three areas in the Garo Hills. Area of reserved forests.

198. Satisfactory progress was also made in bringing the reserves under systematic management. The second working plan for the Goalpara Sâl Forests, covering an area of 719 square miles, was sanctioned during the year, working plans for 158 square miles of the Nowgong Reserves and for the Shillong forests were completed, and plans for 162 square miles in the Kamrup Division, 26 square miles in the Chakaria-Sundarbans Reserve and 19 square miles in the Jokai Reserve are under preparation. Working plans.

199. The expenditure on roads and buildings amounted to Rs. 1,13,405, which, though slightly less than the outlay of the previous year, was considerably more than the average of the preceding five years. In all, 210 miles of new roads and paths were constructed, several bridges were built, 60 set of quarters for forest subordinates were erected, the Raidak Inspection Bungalow in the Buxa Division was completed and work was begun on the Dhubri headquarters bungalow. The Goalpara tramway was extended to the 14th mile, but before further extension is possible it will be necessary to construct a bridge over the Bairali River. The tramway has already proved a profitable investment. Communications and Buildings.

200. The number of forest offences reported during the year was 875 or 93 less than in 1907-1908. The number of cases brought into Court rose, however, from 191 to 228, and the percentage of acquittals increased from 17·3 to 24·1. Forest offences and protection.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The year was most unfavourable for fire protection. Owing to a prolonged drought the forests were extremely dry, and when fires were started the high winds that prevailed caused them to spread rapidly. The area, over which special protection against fire was attempted, was 1,518 square miles, but the percentage successfully protected fell from 95·08 in the preceding year to 76·70. There were 89 fires in the specially protected area, and 354 square miles were burnt.

Rubber plantations.

201. Smaller areas were worked in the Charduar and Kulsi rubber plantation, the yield from the former rising from 13 lbs. in 1907-1908 to 18·1 lbs. per acre, while on the Kulsi plantation 39 lbs. against 46 lbs. per acre were obtained. The extra outturn of both plantations was sold locally at Rs. 2-11-1 per lb., the previous year's outturn having fetched only Rs. 2-4-7 and Rs. 2-7-4 per lb. in the London Market. Considerable success attended the experiment of raising ficus elastica seedlings in the Lushai Hills, and the rubber plant nurseries in the Lakhimpur Division also did well.

Financial Results.

202. Information under this head is included in Chapter V.—"Revenue and Finance."

SECTION 5.—Manufactures and Mines.

[*See* Report on Tea Culture in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908; Statistics of British India, Part I, Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1903-1909.]

Tea.

203. Tea is the principal manufacture of the province. Despite an unfavourable season there was an increase in the number of gardens and in the area under cultivation. This development was in some measure the result of a successful recruiting season which brought an increase of 5 per cent. in the number of labourers. The year's crop produced 210,472,150 pounds of black and 1,075,340 pounds of green tea, a slight increase over the outturn of 1907. The general quality of the crop was somewhat disappointing. There was a general fall in prices both in London and Calcutta, which was due partly to a decreased demand for low-grade teas and partly to the depreciation in quality. The decline is only temporary, whereas the improvement effected in labour conditions should be permanent, so that the prospects of the tea industry are certainly brighter.

Minerals.

204. Two prospecting licenses were granted during the year, one for coal in the Garo Hills and the other for minerals in the Lakhimpur district. Five coal mines were worked during the year, all in the Lakimpur district. The output was 275,224 tons, valued at Rs. 1,307,314, and the Government royalties amounted to Rs. 43,891 as compared with Rs. 42,845 in the previous year. The amount of mineral oil produced at Digboi was 3,243,110 gallons, the Government royalties amounting to Rs. 18,215. The returns show an increase on the previous year's working. The output of limestone in the year was 99,735 tons, of which 99,475 tons were quarried in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, 222 tons in Lakhimpur and 38 tons in Manipur.

SECTION 6.—Factories.

[*See* Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1908; Statistics of British India, Part I.]

Number of Factories.

205. One hundred and one factories were at work on the last day of the year, as compared with 108 on the 31st December 1907. The 101 factories were made up as follows:—

Printing Press	1
Railway Workshops	9
Jute Presses	81
Oil-mills	1
Saw-mills	7
Tinning Works	1
Potteries	1
Total	101

Eleven factories were opened and 18 closed during the year. There was a decrease of 5 in the number of Jute Presses and of 2 in the number of saw mills. The daily average number of operatives employed was 18,995.

Condition of Factories.

206. Nineteen factories were inspected once, 45 twice, 19 thrice and 16 more than three times each duringthe year. The Chief Inspector of Explosives inspected the Burma Oil Tinning Factory at Chittagong, and the Special Inspector of Factories inspected 25 factories in the Eastern Bengal districts. All other inspections were made by Medical Officers, District Magistrates or Subdivisional Officers. The provisions of the Act were generally observed and the suggestions of the Inspecting officers followed, except in one factory at Chandpur and two factories at Akhaura in the district of Tippera, where all the defects noticed by the Civil Surgeon had not been remedied at the close of the year. The machinery in nearly all factories was securely fenced and well protected, as required by the provisions of the law. Sixteen accidents occurred during the year, of which three were serious and thirteen minor. Sanitary arrangements were generally good, but the water-supply of the Tezpur Saw-mills in Darrang and of the Assam-Bengal Railway Workshop at Lumding in Nowgong was not satisfactory. The health of the operatives was, on the whole, good. Statistics of mortality are not generally maintained, but 44 deaths were registered in Assam, all in the Lakhimpur district, against 63 in the previous year. Malaria and measles prevailed in epidemic form in the Mecklanadi Saw-mills in Lakhimpur. Women and children were employed on light labour. The percentage of children employed to the total number of operatives fell from 3·2 to 2·9. The instructions of the Government of India, regarding the employment of children in factories, were carried out in all the factories in Eastern Bengal, and children were granted certificates under Section 5 of the Act. In Assam, however, the above instructions were not adequately observed, and Civil Surgeons will be asked to give special attention to this irregularity.

SECTION 7.—Maritime Trade.

[*See* Report on the Maritime Trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908-1909.]

General.

207. Practically the whole of the Maritime Trade of the Province is with the Port of Chittagong. The construction of more jetties to meet the demands of the shippers and merchants is now being taken in hand. The Assam-Bengal Railway and the British India Steam Navigation Company have arranged for a six-weekly service of steamers between London and Chittagong. The arrangement is a temporary one at present, but should it prove remunerative it will be made permanent and be of the greatest service to the trade of the province. Narayanganj and Chandpur were declared ports during the year, but no arrangements were made for recording the trade of those ports till the close of the year.

The aggregate value of the Maritime Trade during the year was Rs. 6,93,57,562, a decrease of nearly Rs. 29 lakhs from the figures of the previous year. Foreign trade increased, but in coasting trade there was a decline.

Foreign Trade.

208. Imports rose in value from Rs. 56,47,244 in 1907-1908 to Rs. 63,43,478. The increase was most marked in railway materials, iron, machinery, tea-chests and wood. On the other hand, there was a noticeable decrease in Government stores, lead and cotton piece-goods. The increase in the value of imports of wood was from Rs. 24 in the preceding year to Rs. 57,641. There were large importations from Australia by the Assam-Bengal Railway, a matter which should engage the attention of the Forest Department. Exports under the head of Foreign Trade rose in value from Rs. 3,79,47,022 to Rs. 4,73,07,764. Jute, tea, hemp, rice and paddy are the chief exports. In jute there was an increase of Rs. 77·49 lakhs, in tea Rs. 12·02 lakhs, in hemp Rs. 1·94 lakhs, and in rice and paddy more than half a lakh. Of the total Foreign Trade 76·5 per cent. was with the United Kingdom, 1·6 with other British possessions, and 21·9 with foreign countries. Among the latter Germany (7·0), France (6·4) and America (5·0) had the largest share. The total increase in the value of the Foreign trade was Rs. 101·38 lakhs.

Coasting Trade.

209. Compared with the previous year the value of the imports (coasting trade) decreased by Rs. 103·14 lakhs. Practically the whole of the decrease occurred in the trade from Burma and was due to a fall in the importations of rice and paddy. This in its turn was due to the greater production of rice and paddy in this province. In exports there was a decrease of Rs. 27·15 lakhs. Smaller importations of rice necessitated export of smaller amounts of treasure and this was the chief cause of the decrease. Large shipments of rice accounted for a noticeable rise in the value of exports to Madras from Rs. 1,950 to Rs. 2,71,085.

Receipts and expenditure.

210. The customs receipts rose from Rs. 9·73 lakhs to Rs. 11·10 lakhs and expenditure showed an increase of Rs. 10,172.

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SECTION 8.—Rail and River-borne Trade.

[*See* Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1908-1909.]

Total rail and river-borne trade.

211. The total rail and river-borne trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam with other provinces amounted to 653 lakhs of maunds and its value to Rs. 4,747 lakhs, an increase of 48 and 52 lakhs, respectively, on the figures of the previous year. Calcutta again monopolized the greater share of this trade. Almost 76 per cent. of the exports and 66 per cent. of the imports went to and came from Calcutta. The rest of Bengal received 24 per cent. and sent 32 per cent., respectively. It should, however, be remembered that country-boat traffic between this province and Bengal is registered to a very insignificant extent.

Imports.

212. Imports declined in quantity and value by 11·2 and 154·2 lakhs, respectively. The principal articles of import were manufactured cotton, rice and paddy, metals, coal, sugar, chillies, mustard oil, kerosine oil and salt. There was a reduction of Rs. 66·4 lakhs in the value of European piece-goods imported, while the value of Indian piece-goods and yarns increased by Rs. 21·9 lakhs. Rice and sugar showed a pronounced decrease, and coal, kerosine oil and salt an increase. There was a rise of 157·3 lakhs of maunds in the imports of coal, the Dacca and Bakarganj districts being principally responsible for the increase.

Exports.

213. Exports increased by Rs. 206 lakhs in value and by nearly 60 lakhs of maunds, in quantity. The chief articles of export were jute, tea, paddy and rice, hides, oil-seedst betel-nuts, tobacco, raw cotton, lac, raw silk and hemp. Bumper crops in the great rice-producing districts of Bakarganj and Sylhet led to an increased exportation of paddy and rice. The export trade in hemp made a great advance and exports of jute and raw silk also increased. Statistics in the case of raw silk give a very inadequate idea of the quantity of silk produced in this province, because much of the exported silk escapes registration. Tea, lac, tobacco and raw cotton showed a decrease. The unsatisfactory state of the market was the cause of the decrease in tea and lac, and a poorer outturn accounted for the decline in the tobacco and cotton trade.

Proportion of river-borne to rail-borne trade.

214. Of the total registered trade 50 per cent. of the exports and 41 per cent. of the imports was river-borne.

SECTION 9.—Frontier Trade.

[*See* Report on the Trade between the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam and the adjoining Foreign Tribes and countries for the year 1908-1909.]

Value and distribution of the frontier Trade.

215. The system of registration of the frontier trade is very imperfect, and consequently the value of the statistics quoted is considerably diminished.

The total value of the trans-frontier trade was Rs. 6,84,547 in 1908-1909 against Rs. 7,68,487 in 1907-1908, a decrease of Rs. 83,940.

The proportion between the value of the trade with each country or tribe and the total trans-frontier trade of the province is as follows:—

Countries.	1907-1908.	1908-1909.
Bhutan	72·9	80·5
Towang and Charduar Bhutias	7·7	8·0
Aka and Dafla Hills	7·4	2·5
Abor, Mishmi, etc., Hills	12·0	9·0
	100	100

Imports.

216. There was a decline of Rs. 1,09,325 in the value of imports. The chief imports were ponies, lac, rubber, oranges, cotton cloth, musk, wax, blankets, timber, ghee and spices. There was a serious collapse in the lac trade, the sole cause apparently being the lower prices offered. Merciless tapping and a fall in price account for a remarkable decline in the rubber trade. The value of the rubber imported during the year was only Rs. 54,446, compared with Rs. 1,33,236 in 1907-1908 and Rs. 2,22,749 in 1906-1907. The value of imported timber has fallen from Rs. 7,40,058 in 1906-1907 to Rs. 24,189 in the year under review. No adequate explanation of this extraordinary decline is yet forthcoming, and the Conservator of Forests has been asked to check the figures reported. On the other hand, trade in cotton cloth, musk, wax, blankets, ghee and spices greatly developed.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Exports.

217. There was an increase of Rs. 25,385 in the value of exports. The chief exports were piece-goods, silk, cotton twist and yarn, tobacco, betel-nuts, rice, sugar, metals and silver bullion. There was a noticeable decrease in the export of rice, indicating apparently good harvests in the hills. Metals showed an insignificant decrease. Under each of the other chief heads there was an increase, which was most marked in the case of silk, sugar, betel-nuts and silver bullion.

SECTION 10.—Public Works.

[*See* Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for 1908-1909.]

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

218. The total Public Works revenue amounted to Rs. 1,93,277 and the total expenditure to Rs. 72,80,546.

IMPERIAL WORKS.

Expenditure.

219. The expenditure on Imperial Works under all heads was Rs. 2,49,695, against Rs. 2,31,859 in 1907-1908.

Military.

220. Quarters for a Sergeant Instructor and an Armoury for the Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles were under construction and improvements to the Native Infantry lines at Shillong were completed.

Civil.

221. Extensions to the Post Office at Dacca, quarters for the Postmaster at Karimganj, a combined Post and Telegraph office at Patya, additions and alterations to the Telegraph Office, the Signallers' quarters at Chittagong, the Signal room at Silchar and the Accountant-General's office at Shillong were completed, and works in connection with the Telegraph buildings at Shillong, Saidpur, and a combined office at Faridpur were in progress, as also the collection of materials for a new Post Office at Chittagong and a residence for the Accountant-General at Dacca.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

Expenditure.

222. The expenditure on Provincial Works under all heads was Rs. 59,11,039 against Rs. 52,10,839 in 1907-1908.

Residences.

223. Special repairs to Government House, Shillong, were continued and considerable progress was made on the new Government Houses at Dacca and Chittagong.

Eleven out of forty-three projected residences at Dacca were completed and thirteen were in progress, as also four others at the Central farm, Manipur (Dacca). Residences for the Commissioner and the Executive Engineer at Jalpaiguri were nearing completion. A building at Rampur-Boalia was acquired for the District and Sessions Judge and another for a Chummery for Junior Civilians, and a residence was constructed for the Police Superintendent. Residences for the Police Superintendents at Chittagong and Barisal were also completed, whilst residences for the Subdivisional Officers at Netrokona and Kishoreganj and six sets of quarters for Munsifs were in progress. In the Assam Circle land was taken up for the Civil Surgeon's residence at Shillong, and quarters for the Deputy Commissioner and the Inspector of Schools at Jorhat were under construction. Seventy-seven acres of additional land were acquired for the new Civil Station at Dacca.

Administration.

224. Materials were collected for the new Secretariat buildings at Dacca, and the Central Jail Press at that place was completed. Additions and alterations to various office buildings in Shillong were carried out or in progress.

Law and Justice.

225. The new Cutcherry at Jorhat was finished and Court buildings at other places were improved, altered or constructed.

Political.

226. A new office for the Superintendent, Chittagong Hill Tracts, at Rangamati was practically completed, and a survey of the Bhutan boundary was in progress.

Circuit Houses.

227. The Circuit Houses at Dinajpur, Chittagong and Noakhali were nearly finished, whilst additions and alterations were made to those at Jalpaiguri, Rampur-Boalia and Bogra.

Education.

228. All the works included in the original project for the new Dacca College were completed with the exception of the Curzon Hall. Various additions and improvements to educational buildings at Rajshahi, Malda, Comilla, Bakarganj, Gauhati, Shillong, Tezpur, Nowgong, Dhubri and Sylhet were either completed or in progress.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Jails.

229. The principal works completed were two A-class barracks in the Tezpur Jail and quarters for a Hospital Assistant and a Civil Ward in the Dacca Jail. Improvements in connection with the jail buildings at several other places were also carried out, whilst the construction of the enclosure wall and gate buildings of the new District Jail at Jorhat and a three-storied barrack in the Barisal Jail and the reconstruction of the Noakhali Jail were in progress.

Police.

230. Police buildings were completed at Gauhati, Manipur, Haflong, Balaganj, Kamalganj, Jaipur, Sadiya, Rampur Boalia, Khetlal, Adamdighi, Kumarganj and Bogra, and others were in progress at various places.

Medical.

231. A residence for the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner was under construction at Dacca, as also office buildings for the Civil Surgeons at Mymensingh, Malda, Tezpur and Dhubri; a bungalow at Dibrugarh was also purchased for the nursing sisters of Lady Minto's Nursing Association.

Excise.

232. The enlargement of the Central Distillery at Jorhat and the construction of bonded warehouses at several places were the most important excise works undertaken.

Public Works Department buildings.

233. A combined office for the Superintending and Executive Engineers at Dacca and offices for the Executive Engineers at Rajshahi, Chittagong and Jalpaiguri were constructed. A residence for the Executive Engineer at Chittagong was completed and two others at Dacca and Jalpaiguri were in hand. The old Post office at Shillong was converted into an office for the Superintending Engineer, Assam Circle.

Registration.

234. A Registration Office at Malda was completed as also extensions to the Registration Office at Rampur. Extensions to the offices at Comilla and Mymensingh were in progress.

Archæology.

235. The conservation of and special repairs to the archæological buildings at Gaur and Pandua and the ruins at Dimapur were carried out.

Miscellaneous.

236. Two semi-permanent offices for the Provincial Survey and a laboratory for the Central Farm at Manipur (Dacca) were in progress.

Communications.

237. Improvements to the Gauhati-Shillong road to make it suitable for motor traffic were continued during the year. Improvements to the Assam Trunk Road and the bridges thereon; two screw pile bridges on the North Trunk road; the metalling of the Dimapur-Manipur road; a new steel bridge over the Umshirpi River on the Shillong-Cherra road; metalling and improving the Kothiatoli-Amluki road and the Nowgong-Kampur road; widening the Silchar-Hailakandi road; construction of the Tandoo Forest road, the Chapar-Sidli, Nalbari-Dhamdhama and Sarupeta-Lahapara feeder roads and also the Aijal-Sairang road and improvements to several other roads and the bridges thereon were also in progress or completed. The survey of a suitable alignment for a cart-road between Mawphlong and Bhawalgaon was carried out.

Dak and Inspection Bungalows.

238. Inspection Bungalows were under construction at Mahendraganj, Sunamganj, Companyganj, Gossaigaon, Sipajhar, and several others in the Lushai Hills were in progress or completed. The Dâk Bungalows at Dacca and Narayanganj were completed, and others at Chittagong, Dumduma and Talap and a combined Dâk and Inspection Bungalow at Margherita were in progress.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

239. The most important works were the clearing and laying out of the grounds of the new Civil Station at Dacca and the drainage and construction of the new roads there. Improvements to the roads and drainage of the Shillong Station were also carried out. Artesian borings for the supply of good drinking water were carried out at Chittagong, Jorhat, Rampur Boalia and Nator.

Minor Works and Navigation.

240. Improvements to the drainage of the Gaibandha 'bhil,' the dredging of the Buriganga River and of the Palong and Mainakata channels, 'bandalling' in the Brahmaputra river near Dibrugarh and a survey of the Damoda River and the Angeria Creek were the most important works.

Contribution Works.

241. The conservancy tram line for the Dacca Municipality, the Industrial School at Bogra and a few other works were undertaken.

Railways and Tramways.

242. The total open mileage in the Province at the end of the year 1908-1909 was 1822·59, against 1740·09 in the previous year.

The preliminary survey of a line on the 3′ $3\frac{3}{8}$″ gauge from Singhjani to a point on the Brahmaputra River opposite Fulchari, a distance of 28 miles, was completed, as also a detailed survey on the 3′ $3\frac{3}{8}$″ gauge of a line from Bhairab Bazar to Tangi, a distance of 38 miles.

Arrangements were also made with the Railway Board for the surveys of the following light Railway lines:—

	Miles.
1. Kampur to Silghat	50
2. Shaistaganj to Habiganj	8
3. Juri to Patni	24
4. Silchar to Duarband	16
5. Silchar to Tikalpur	12
6. Mangaldai light Railway	39

The survey of Nos. 1 and 6 were nearly completed during the year. The cost of these surveys will be met from Provincial revenues.

The net receipts of the Jorhat State Railway for the year 1908-1909 amounted to Rs. 18,632, against Rs. 8,717 in the previous year.

The Tezpur-Balipara and the Dibru-Sadiya Railways returned 4·30 and 4·80 per cent., respectively, on their capital outlay during the year 1908, against 5·94 and 4·34 per cent. in 1907.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

(A) GROSS REVENUE.

243. The receipts and charges of this province during 1908-1909 are shown in the statements below. The figures given here do not in every case agree with the corresponding figures given in the paragraphs which deal with the principal heads separately. The latter figures are taken from the annual reports of the departments concerned, and apparent discrepancies in some cases are explained by the fact that the figures refer to different periods, the departmental year not coinciding with the financial year :—

Receipts.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Principal Heads of Revenue—			
I.—Land Revenue	72,52,202	1,26,10,458	1,98,62,660
II.—Opium	6,68,826	.....	6,68,826
III.—Salt	14,76,151	.....	14,76,151
IV.—Stamps	49,69,985	49,69,984	99,39,969
V.—Excise	35,17,835	35,17,835	70,35,670
VI.—Provincial Rates	.....	16,66,296	16,66,296
VII.—Customs	1,09,265	.....	1,09,265
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	6,04,153	5,90,282	11,94,435
IX.—Forest	7,23,184	7,23,184	14,46,368
X.—Registration	.....	9,76,886	9,76,886
XI.—Tributes	50,200	.....	50,200
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue ...	1,93,71,801	2,50,54,925	4,44,26,726
B.—Interest—			
XII.—Interest	525	1,39,389	1,39,914
D.—Receipts by Civil Departments—			
XVIA.—Law and Justice (Courts of Law)	.....	3,72,878	3,72,878
XVIB.—Law and Justice (Jails)	.....	4,19,946	4,19,946
XVII.—Police	.....	1,82,794	1,82,794
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	.....	8,516	8,516
XIX.—Education	.....	2,32,045	2,32,045
XX.—Medical	.....	59,878	59,878
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	.....	64,456	64,456
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments ...	.....	13,40,513	13,40,513

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts—			
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation	71,064	12,203	83,267
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	1,890	16.473	18,363
XXV.—Miscellaneous	17,155	3,19,652	3,36,807
Total E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts ...	90,109	3,48,328	4,38,437
H.—Railways—			
XXVI.—State Railways (Gross Receipts)	.....	99,592	99,592
Deduct working expenses	.....	80,961	80,961
Net Railway Receipts	.....	18,631	18,631
J.—Irrigation—			
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation	.....	127	127
K.—Other Public Works—			
XXXI.—Civil Works	4,508	2,89,510	2,94,018
Military Receipts—			
XXXIV.—Military Works	5,964	.....	5,964
Adjusting Heads—			
Contribution between Provincial and Local ...	.....	.....	.....
Total Adjusting Heads ...	.....	.....	.....
Grand Total ...	1,94,72,907	2,71,91,423	4,66,64,330

Expenditure.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Direct demands on the Revenue—			
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	51,367	48,861	1,00,228
2.—Assignments and Compensations	1,12,798	81,384	1,94,182
3.—Land Revenue	14,28,515	28,93,390	43,21,905
5.—Salt	26,403	.....	26,403
6.—Stamps	2,07,481	2,07,480	4,14,961
7.—Excise	1,38,660	1,38,660	2,77,320
8.—Provincial Rates	.....	24,332	24,332
9.—Customs	42,799	.....	42,799
10.—Assessed Taxes	17,133	17,133	34,266
11.—Forest	4,45,674	4,45,675	8,91,349
12.—Registration	.....	5,92,316	5,92,316
Total A.—Direct demands on the Revenue ...	24,70,830	44,49,231	69,20,061

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
B.—Interest—			
13.—Interest on ordinary debt	.....	1,13,949	1,13,949
14.—Interest on other obligations	6,619	.....	6,619
Total B.—Interest ...	6,619	1,13,949	1,20,568
D.—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments—			
18.—General Administration	2,28,527	12,70,201	14,98,728
19A.—Law and Justice (Courts of Law)	.....	44,85,710	44,85,710
19B.—Ditto (Jails)	.....	11,12,372	11,12,372
20.—Police	.....	50,41,034	50,41,034
21.—Ports and Pilotage	.....	1,58,435	1,58,435
22.—Education	.....	21,61,093	21,61,093
23.—Ecclesiastical	31,100	.....	31,100
24.—Medical	.....	9,33,859	9,33,859
25.—Political	.....	1,08,494	1,08,494
26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	7,736	3,78,770	3,86,506
Total D.—Salaries and Expenses of the Civil Departments ...	2,67,363	1,56,19,968	1,59,17,331
E.—Miscellaneous—			
27.—Territorial and Political pensions	8,619	.....	8,619
28.—Civil Furlough, etc.	.....	.....	.....
29.—Superannuation allowances and pensions ...	400	6,98,536	6,98,936
30.—Stationery and Printing	.....	6,68,980	6,68,980
32.—Miscellaneous	31,559	7,51,601	7,83,160
Total E.—Miscellaneous ...	40,578	21,19,117	21,59,695
F.—Famine Relief and Insurance—			
33.—Famine Relief	.....	33,018	33,018
35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation work ...	2,327	.....	2,327
Total F.—Famine Relief and Insurance ...	2,327	33,018	35,345
H.—Railway Revenue accounts—			
40.—Subsidised Companies	8,671	9,500	18,171
41.—Miscellaneous Railway expenditure	.....	11,000	11,000
Total H.—Railways ...	8,671	20,500	29,171
J.—Irrigation—			
43.—Minor Works and Navigation	.....	57,208	57,208
K.—Other Public Works—			
44.—Construction of Railways...	.....	6,234	6,234
45.—Civil Works	1,80,203	70,68,138	72,48,341
Total K.—Other Public Works ...	1,80,203	70,74,372	72,54,575
L.—Military Services—			
47.—Military Works	69,492	.....	69,492
Grand Total ...	30,46,083	2,95,17,363	3,25,63,446

GROSS REVENUE.

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure.

	1907-08.			1908-09.			1908-09 compared with 1907-08.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or Net expenditure —.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or Net expenditure —.	Increase of Revenue.	Decrease of Revenue.	Increase of expenditure.	Decrease of expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I (*a*) Principal Heads of Revenue	4,40,75,240	63,14,189	+3,77,61,051	4,44,12,886	69,20,061	+3,74,92,825	7,37,646	...	6,05,872	...
II Departmental Heads—										
(*b*) Interest	76,350	(*a*) 79,813	—3,463	1,38,914	(*a*) 1,20,568	+19,346	63,564	...	40,755	...
(*d*) Civil Departments ...	12,59,360	1,44,21,623	—1,31,62,263	13,40,513	1,59,17,331	—1,45,76,818	81,153	...	14,95,708	...
(*e*) Miscellaneous ...	3,41,605	18,13,730	—14,72,125	4,38,437	21,59,695	—17,21,258	96,832	...	3,45,965	...
(*f*) Famine Relief and Insurances.	...	2,946	—2,946	...	35,345	—35,345	...	...	32,399	...
(*h*) Railway Revenue Accounts.	8,717	3,665	+5,052	18,631	29,171	—10,540	9,914	...	25,506	...
(*j*) Irrigation	132	72,693	—72,561	127	57,208	—57,081	...	5	...	15,485
(*k*) Other Public Works ...	2,76,616	66,65,307	—63,88,691	2,94,018	72,54,575	—69,60,557	17,402	...	5,89,268	...
(*l*) Military Services ...	5,427	81,713	—76,286	5,964	69,492	—63,528	537	...	...	12,221
Total Departmental Heads...	19,68,207	2,31,41,490	—2,11,73,283	22,37,604	2,56,43,385	—2,34,05,781	2,69,402	5	25,29,601	27,706
Grand total ...	4,60,43,447	2,94,55,679	+1,65,87,768	4,66,50,490	3,25,63,446	+1,40,87,044	6,07,048	5	31,35,473	27,706

(*a*) Including Public Works Department figures.

244. The expenditure of the year compares as follows with that of 1907-1908 :— Land Revenue.

	Increase.	Decrease.
(1) Charges of District Administration ...	47,000	
(2) Management of Government Estates ...	3,000	
(3) Commission on collections	.....	47,000
(4) Survey and Settlement	2,82,000	
(5) Land Records	34,000	

Larger charges for salaries of officers chiefly account for the increase under the first head. The actuals under Survey and Settlement for 1908-1909 are not yet final, as the adjustment of the share of control debitable by Bengal has not been made. Commission on collections was very high in 1907-1908 owing to payment of arrears. The increase under Land Records was chiefly due to the charges incurred for the construction of the Director of Land Records' steam launch. Compared with the budget for 1908-1909 there were savings under Survey and Settlement (Rs. 33,000), Commission on collections (Rs. 27,000) and management of Government Estates (Rs. 5,000), while there was an excess of Rs. 13,000 under Land Records and Rs. 3,000 under charges of District Administration.

245. The details by minor heads of the actuals and estimates under this head are shown below in round figures :—

Minor heads.	Actuals 1907-1908.	Budget 1908-1909.	Actuals 1908-1909.	Comparison with actuals of 1907-1908.	Comparison with Budget 1908-1909.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Salary of the Lieutenant-Governor	96,000	96,000	1,06,000	+10,000	+10,000
Staff and Household of Lieutenant-Governor ...	45,000	53,000	56,000	+11,000	+3,000
Expenditure from Contract Allowance	29,000	25,000	23,000	—6,000	—2,000
Tour expenses	7,000	4,000	8,000	+1,000	+4,000
Legislative Council	5,000	5,000	5,000	...	...
Civil Secretariats	3,65,000	3,62,000	4,24,000	+59,000	+62,000
Board of Revenue	2,17,000	2,12,000	2,30,000	+13,000	+18,000
Commissioners	3,38,000	3,30,000	3,52,000	+14,000	+22,000
Civil office of Account and Audit (Imperial)	1,79,000	2,15,000	2,28,000	+49,000	+13,000
Ditto ditto (Provincial	31,000	38,000	38,000	+7,000	...
Inspector-General of Stamps, Excise and Registration ...	29,000	29,000	29,000	...	...
Total	13,41,000	13,69,000	14,99,000	+1,58,000	+1,30,000

The excess under the head "Salary of the Lieutenant-Governor" was due to payment of the leave allowance of the Lieutenant-Governor. The increase under Civil Secretariat as compared with 1907-1908 was mainly due to charges for hill allowance, increased establishments and the new Translation Bureau. The excess over the budget was composed of various items, the more important of which were pay and hill allowance of increased establishments, leave allowances, Translation Bureau and contingencies. Leave allowance of the Accountant-General, pay of a probationer, hill allowances and increased establishments caused the increase under Civil office of Account and Audit (Imperial) over the actuals of 1907-1908 and the budget of 1908-1909.

(B) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE:

SECTION 1.—Land Revenue.

Land Revenue.

246. The ordinary land revenue demand for the year amounted to Rs. 1,99,65,718, of which sum Rs. 1,90,54,581 were collected and Rs. 46,445 remitted. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of nearly Rs. 3 lakhs in the demand and of more than Rs. 3 lakhs in the collections, while there was an appreciable reduction of remissions. The collections under Miscellaneous Land Revenue amounted to Rs. 8,49,803 against Rs. 13,67,275 in 1907-1908, a decrease of over Rs. 5 lakhs, for which smaller recoveries on account of Survey and Settlement charges were mainly responsible. There was, therefore, a decrease of Rs. 2½ lakhs, approximately, in the total land revenue of the year.

SECTION 2.—Sources of Revenue other than Land.

Customs.

247. The Customs receipts of Chittagong increased from Rs. 9·73 lakhs in 1907-1908 to Rs. 11·10 lakhs, or 14·1 per cent. The increase was due to larger clearances of salt, the chief dutiable article, and revival of the rice trade to foreign ports. There was an increase of Rs. 10,172 in expenditure during the year, which occurred mainly under the heads of Contingencies and Establishment.

Opium.

248. The receipts on account of Opium amounted to Rs. 6,68,826, compared with Rs. 6,90,437 in the preceding year.

249. Imports, excluding those of duty-paid salt by rail, amounted to 1,865,883 maunds, or 25·31 per cent. less than in the previous year. Clearances fell off by 2·34 per cent., decreased sales being shown by all warehouses except those at Chittagong, Madaripur and Chandpur. The decrease in imports is attributed chiefly to the large stocks remaining at the close of 1907-1908, and the importation of duty-paid salt by wholesale vendors from Calcutta was responsible for the decline in the clearance. Imports from the United Kingdom decreased by 310,196 maunds or 81·49 per cent., from Hamburg by 44,365 maunds or 45·26 per cent. and from Spain by 5,254 maunds or 1·95 per cent., while imports from Aden increased by 123,273 maunds or 27·23 per cent. Duty-paid salt is conveyed to different districts in the province by water and by rail. Importations by rail amounted to 1,308,991 maunds. No information is available of the quantity introduced by water. The average wholesale price per maund in the bazars was Rs. 2-2-5, compared with Rs. 2-4-11 and Rs. 2-11-5 in the two preceding years. The price has fallen in almost all districts and the consumer has benefited greatly by the reduction of the duty to Re. 1 per maund. The net revenue was Rs. 20,22,408, less than that of 1907-1908 by Rs. 48,091 or 2·32 per cent. There was a decrease of Rs. 50,619 in receipts and of Rs. 2,528 in charges. Salt.

250. The total excise revenue demand for the year was Rs. 71,39,736, against Rs. 67,04,664 in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 4,35,072. The percentage realized was 99·72, the total receipts amounting to Rs. 70,34,031, as compared with Rs 67,98,748 in 1907-1908. Under the heads of country spirit and opium increase of revenue was accompanied by diminished consumption. There was an increase in the consumption of ganja, owing to the abundant ganja crop and comparatively low prices of the year, and in the consumption of foreign liquor, owing to the weakening of the Swadeshi movement so far as liquor was concerned. The total expenditure was Rs. 2,92,879 against Rs. 2,43,526, the increase being due to the entertainment of extra establishment required for the extension of the contract distillery system and to the appointment of a special Excise Sub-Deputy Collector in Chittagong to deal with opium smuggling. The settlements for 1909-1910 compared with the previous year's show a reduction of 262 shops and more than Rs. 5 lakhs in fees. Owing to the introduction of the contract supply system in the current year the license fees for country spirit shops in the Rajshahi Division fell off by over 6 lakhs, and in the Lakhimpur district there was a large decrease which was partly due to the mistake of importing a system of selection into the auction settlements. Excise.

The more important changes carried out during the year were (*a*) the extension of the contract supply system to the districts of Sylhet, Cachar, Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong, (*b*) the raising of the treasury price of opium from Rs. 37 to Rs. 40 per seer in the Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts with effect from the 1st April 1909, (*c*) the completion of the survey of the ganja mahal and extension of the area to be cultivated with ganja from 976 to 1,026 acres and (*d*) the continued reduction in the number and redistribution of country spirit, ganja and opium shops. Financially the extension of the contract distillery system was not a success during the year under review. An increase in expenditure on establishments and warehouse buildings was not accompanied by any increase in revenue. The results were worst in the Sylhet district, where smuggling from a line of shops along the Hill Tippera border was the main cause of a decline in revenue. Action has been taken to induce the Hill Tippera State to remedy this evil. Though financially not a success, the introduction of the contract supply system has led to an improvement in the quality of the liquor and to a decrease of drunkenness.

251. The revenue collected under the Stamp Act and Court-fees Act amounted to Rs. 99,39,969, as compared with Rs. 96,38,890 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 3,01,079. The sale proceeds of Court-fee stamps, excluding stamps for copies, provided an increase of Rs. 2,71,297. The total charges during the year amounted to Rs. 2,62,410, against Rs. 2,53,639 in 1907-1908. These figures exclude the cost of stamps and plain paper supplied from the Central Depôt, which amounted to Rs. 1,96,975 or Rs. 9,037 less than in the previous year. In cases dealt with by Civil Courts and Revenue Officers the amount of duty and penalty realized rose from Rs.8,041 and Rs. 11,102 to Rs. 10,653 and Rs. 18,744 respectively. There was a decrease of 24 in the number of criminal prosecutions and of Rs. 197 in the amount of fines imposed. Enquiries were held in 72·6 per cent. of the cases of valuation of estates for the issue of probate or letters of administration, and the proportion borne by the deficit duty realized to the amount originally paid was 61·7 per cent., a striking increase on the 27·3 per cent. of the previous year. Stamps.

Income-Tax.

252. The total income-tax receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 11,83,795 and the total charges to Rs. 32,200. The net revenue shows an increase of 5·6 per cent. which, though less than the increase of 9·3 per cent. in the previous year, represents a normal expansion. The final number of assessees and the final demand for the year rose from 16,442 to 17,163 and from Rs. 9,47,501 to Rs. 9,82,643, respectively. Of the total final demand a percentage of 99·1 was collected. Charges increased by Rs. 2,376, due chiefly to the entertainment of an Assessor and a clerk in the Surma Valley Districts.

Forest Revenue.

253. The gross receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 15,46,374, or Rs. 1,59,134 more than the previous year's, and the expenditure to Rs. 9,66,720, an increase of Rs. 1,46,775, so that the net increase in the surplus was Rs. 12,359. The receipts and surplus would have been greater but for the fact that a sum of Rs. 48,126, the price of sleepers supplied to the Assam-Bengal Railway, remained unadjusted at the close of the year. The same reason explains the apparent deficit in the returns of Goalpara, which was the only Division that did not work at a profit. The increase in expenditure occurred under several heads. Conservancy and works accounted for 56·3 per cent. of the total expenditure and establishment for 43·7 per cent.

(C).—REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

SECTION 3.—Provincial Finance.

Receipts and expenditure.

254. The receipts and expenditure are compared below with those of the previous year :—

Year.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1907-1908	61,50,024	2,44,19,078	2,70,15,760	35,53,417
1908-1909	35,53,417	2,71,88,491	2,95,46,178	12,00,730

In round figures, the Provincial service accounts for 1908-1909 showed an opening balance of Rs. 35,58,000. The Provincial receipts proper, *i.e.*, the receipts from the heads and shares of heads of revenue assigned to the province, aggregated Rs. 2,43,45,000, to which may be added Rs. 12,25,000 representing the net ordinary contributions received from Imperial revenues for various purposes. The gross receipts of the province were, therefore, Rs. 2,55,70,000 or, including the opening balance, Rs. 2,91,28,000. The total expenditure of the year was Rs. 2,95,46,000 or Rs. 4,18,000 in excess of the gross available revenue. To clear this deficit and to enable the province to maintain the prescribed minimum balance of Rs. 12,00,000, a further assignment of Rs. 16,18,000 was received from Imperial revenues. In other words, but for this aid from Imperial revenues the province would have closed the year with a *minus* balance of Rs. 4,18,000. The heavy outlay of the year was due partly to special expenditure following on the creation of the new province and partly to growing administrative needs. Heavy payments had also to be made as grain compensation to Government servants drawing Rs. 30 a month and less owing to the high prices of food grains which prevailed during the greater portion of the year. The deficit with which the year closed indicated that the revenues assigned and the initial grant made to this province in the temporary Financial settlement, which was concluded in 1906, were insufficient to meet requirements.

Compared with the actuals of 1907-1908, the receipts (excluding assignments from Imperial revenues) increased by Rs. 6,96,000, or by nearly 3 per cent. The increase in expenditure was Rs. 25,30,000. On the receipt side the principal increases occurred under the heads of Stamps (Rs. 1,50,000), Excise (Rs. 1,24,000), Registration (Rs. 51,000), Interest (Rs. 66,000), Jails (Rs. 47,000) and Miscellaneous (Rs. 1,11,000). The important increases in expenditure were under Registration (Rs. 50,000), General Administration (Rs. 1,08,000), Courts of Law (Rs. 2,95,000), Police (Rs. 6,22,000), Education (Rs. 7,47,000), Medical (Rs. 1,09,000), Scientific and other Minor Departments (Rs. 1,22,000), Stationery and Printing (Rs. 2,84,000), Civil Works (Rs. 12,76,000) and Miscellaneous (Rs. 5,20,000), while there was a decrease under the head of Contributions of Rs. 15,37,000. Under this head were

formerly shown the grants made from Provincial revenues to local funds and local bodies for various purposes. Since 1908-1909 the accounts of these funds have been excluded from the general estimates and accounts, and grants made to them are now shown under the appropriate Provincial heads of expenditure, instead of under the separate head "contributions," which has now disappeared. The increase shown in the expenditure under certain heads, *e.g.*, Education, Miscellaneous and Scientific and other Minor Departments in the accounts of 1908-1909 is, therefore, to a considerable extent, artificial, representing as it does the absorption of expenditure formerly recorded under "Contributions."

SECTION 4.—Local Funds.

Local Funds.

255. Incorporated Local Funds no longer exist. From the 1st April 1908 the transactions of all Local Funds have been excluded from the Government accounts. The following statement shows the receipts and charges during the year of those Local Funds, of which an account is still submitted to Government. The funds were all solvent and closed the year with good balances.

Names of Funds.	Opening balance on the 1st April 1908.	Receipts during the year 1908-1909.	Total.	Expenditure during the year 1908-1909.	Closing balance on 31st March 1909.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	15,80,305	34,09,701	49,90,006	35,33,772	14,56,234
Local Funds	6,54,037	15,17,906	21,71,943	16,21,866	5,50,077
Municipal Union and Station Funds ...	2,10,265	9,72,535	11,82,800	10,15,308	1,67,492
Town and Bazar Funds	20,317	43,780	64,097	36,922	27,175
Hospital Port Dues Funds	4,220	6,449	10,669	7,843	2,826
Port Trust	95,899	7,08,582	8,04,481	7,35,813	68,668
District Chaukidari Reward Fund ...	50,633	29,802	80,435	23,212	57,223
Assam Williamson Education Fund ...	7,479	3,920	11,399	1,964	9,435
Total ...	26,23,155	66,92,675	93,15,830	69,76,700	23,39,130

SECTION 5.—Road and Public Works Cesses.

[*See* Report on the Provincial Rates Operations for the Revenue year 1908-1909.]

Road and Public Works Cesses.

256. The Road and Public Works cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands in all districts of Eastern Bengal except the Chittagong Hill Tracts where the Cess Act is not in force. The current demand in Eastern Bengal amounted to Rs. 32,43,097, an increase of ·45 per cent. over that of the previous year. The percentage of total collections on the current demand fell from 101·54 to 100·39. Rs. 2,209 were remitted against Rs. 12,944 in the preceding year, and the total outstanding balance at the end of the year was Rs. 3,77,116. The number of coercive processes issued showed a small decrease, while the number of objections to certificates rose. A general revaluation in Chittagong and partial revaluations in Dacca, Mymensingh and Bogra were in progress during the year and the general revaluation of Bakarganj was undertaken at the commencement of the current year. In Assam, where the total rate is also assessed at one anna in the rupee, the current demand rose to Rs. 7,50,332, showing an increase of 2·2 per cent. over that of the previous year. The total collections amounted to Rs. 8,55,880, or 114·06 per cent. on the current demand, as compared with 105·26 per cent. in 1907-1908. There was a very slight increase in remissions and the total outstanding balance at the close of the year was Rs. 93,720.

SECTION 6.—Education Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 7.—Municipal Revenue.

257. The subject of Municipal income and expenditure has been discussed in Section 8, Municipal Administration, Chapter III, of this Report.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION 1.—Vital Statistics.

[*See* Sanitary Report of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

Plains districts.

258. The population of the province according to the census of 1901 was 30,961,459 but for the purpose of the vital statistics the population of certain hill tracts is excluded, and the ratios are calculated on a population of 29,812,735. The provincial birth-rate for the year was 41·14, which is considerably higher than that of the previous year (37·01) and the quinquennial mean (38·56). It is also higher than the rate of all other provinces except the Central Provinces (52·84) and the Punjab (41·80). In towns the birth-rate was 25·08 and in rural areas 41·49. The provincial death-rate was 30·74 which is slightly higher than the rate recorded in 1907 (29·30) but lower than the ratio of the last five years (31·60). It is higher than the rates of the provinces of Madras, Bombay and Burma but considerably lower than those of the remaining provinces. The death-rate in towns was 22·23 and in rural areas 30·92. Fevers were responsible for a large proportion of the deaths. The ratios of mortality from the chief diseases were fevers 22·37, cholera 1·99, dysentery and diarrhœa ·83, and small-pox ·31. The prices of food-grains do not appear to have had any effect on the vital statistics. The average price of rice (about $8\frac{1}{16}$ seers to the rupee), though still high, was lower than in 1907, and may perhaps have been a contributory cause of the higher birth-rate. On the other hand, Dinajpur, the district most seriously affected by scarcity, recorded a higher birth-rate and a lower death-rate than its average rate for the last five years.

Hill districts.

259. The birth and death-rates recorded in the hill districts, which are excluded from the provincial statements, were 34·48 and 36·02 in the Khasi Hills, 25·21 and 24·89 in the Naga Hills, 29·82 and 25·94 in the Garo Hills and 43·50 and 43·59 in the Lushai Hills. The system of registration, however, is very imperfect in all the hill areas except Lushai.

SECTION 2.—Immigration and Labour Inspection.

[*See* Resolution on Immigrant Labour in the Assam Districts of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending 30th June 1909.]

General.

260. The labour force dealt with in this report is that imported for employment on tea gardens in Assam, in the oil refinery at Digboi, in coal mines and in certain saw mills. The labour employed in Eastern Bengal and on Railways is excluded, and no account is taken of those labourers who are temporarily employed during part of the year and then return to their homes.

Further progress was made towards the substitution of free for indentured labour. The most important result of the changes effected in the last two years is that labourers are not permitted to enter into contracts under Act VI in the labour districts; contracts can only be taken in the recruiting districts from labourers proceeding to the four districts of the Upper Assam Valley, and it has been held that emigrants to those districts, who are recruited by Sardars working under the Associations to which special privileges have been conceded, cannot be placed under contract. Deserters can no longer be arrested without a warrant in any district.

Strength of the labour force.

261. The total strength of the labour force at the close of the year was 755,838, an increase of 16,003. A decline in the number of Act VI labourers was more than balanced by an increase in the number of free labourers. Only 8·9 per cent. of the adult labour force was indentured under the Act. The number of immigrants during the year (69,773) was very high, though lower than the abnormal figures of the previous year, which was especially favourable to recruitment owing to the existence of famine or scarcity in the recruiting districts. The figures show that there is much less prejudice now against labour in Assam and are evidence of the success of the policy now being followed.

Working of Act XIII.

262. Act XIII continued to be very popular. Act VI labourers on expiry of their contracts are often re-employed under Act XIII agreements and many free labourers are put under such agreements. The labourers are treated liberally and are given land for cultivation rent-free or at a nominal rent, while rice is supplied them at cheap

rates. Complaints are sometimes made by managers that the Act does not give them sufficient control over their labourers and that amendments are needed to stop enticement and desertion.

Wages.

263. The wages of Act VI labourers slightly decreased, while the earnings of non-Act labourers showed an increase, when the average for the total number employed was taken, but a decrease, when calculated on the average daily working strength.

Vital Statistics and Health.

264. A lower birth-rate and a higher death-rate were recorded in the year under review, for which the general unhealthiness of the year is held responsible. The birth-rate, however, affords such a striking contrast with the provincial rate that there can be little doubt that the registration was defective. Though the health of the immigrants on transit showed a pronounced improvement, due to the special arrangements made by Government, the health of the settled labour force was not so good as in the previous year. There was, consequently, an increase in the number of tea gardens placed on the unhealthy list.

Miscellaneous.

265. There were 733 tea gardens on the register at the close of the year, of which 347 were liable to inspection, the number actually inspected being 336. Relations between employers and employed were satisfactory, cases of collision being few and mostly unimportant. Good relations also continued between planters and neighbouring villagers. There was a further increase of 4,962 acres in Government land settled direct with time-expired coolies.

SECTION 3.—Charitable Dispensaries.

[*See* the Dispensary Returns of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

Dispensaries.

266. There were 522 dispensaries in existence at the close of the year, or 12 more than in 1907, 5 having been closed and 17 new ones opened. The work of these institutions is shown by the statistical returns to have been very successful. The total number of patients treated during the year was in-patients 26,246, out-patients 3,245,167, total 3,271,413. A considerable increase occurred under both heads which was probably chiefly due to a growing appreciation of the benefits of medical relief. Worms, malarial fevers and diseases of the skin were the most common complaints. In all classes of dispensaries there were 95,932 operations performed, compared with 95,035 in 1907. There was an increase in all classes except Class V, private non-aided dispensaries. There was also a very large increase in the number of patients treated by Civil Medical Assistants deputed to attend on market days. The total income of dispensaries in Classes I, III, IV, *i.e.*, State Public, Local Fund and Private aided dispensaries amounted to Rs. 8,00,414, of which Rs. 1,85,226, or 23·1 per cent., were contributed by Government and Rs. 3,42,998, or 43 per cent., were obtained from Local and Municipal funds. The total expenditure, including investments, was Rs. 6,44,242 and, excluding investments, Rs. 6,33,942. Compared with the previous year's figures, the income and expenditure increased by Rs. 59,267 and Rs. 47,217, respectively.

Sylhet Leper Asylum.

267. The number of lepers in the Sylhet Asylum on the first and last days of the year was the same, *viz.*, 17. There were 18 admissions against 26 in the preceding year. Six lepers died and 12 were discharged. The majority of the lepers were Hindus. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,462, against Rs. 1,595 in 1907.

SECTION 4.—Lunatic Asylums.

[*See* Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the years 1906-1908; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

Asylum population.

268. During the year 1908 there were 108 admissions and 10 re-admissions to the Asylums at Dacca and Tezpur, and 63 patients were discharged, leaving at the close of the year 486 in confinement. About 50 per cent. of this number were criminal lunatics. Cultivators, coolies and men of unknown or no occupation formed the majority of the inmates. Hindus outnumbered Muhammadans and the proportion of men to women was about 7 to 1.

Forms of Insanity.

269. Mania was the most frequent type of insanity and melancholia the next. Mania also proved itself more amenable to treatment than other types of insanity. Out of the 52 cases which were discharged cured, 33 were recoveries from mania. Physical causes were responsible for most of the admissions, in which the causes of insanity were known.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Health.

270. Owing to an outbreak of epidemic dropsy in the Dacca Asylum, the admissions to hospital rose from 271 in 1907 to 468 in the year under review. The mortality, however, was lower than in 1907, though greater than in 1906. The death rate was lower in the asylums of this province than in those of any other province, except Burma and Bengal.

Finance.

271. The total expenditure, deducting receipts from paying patients, was Rs. 56,682, and the cost per lunatic Rs. 118-0-1 per annum. Receipts from paying patients fell from Rs. 653 in 1906 to Rs. 289 in 1908.

Management.

272. Both asylums were managed carefully and efficiently. The lunatics were well looked after and sympathetically treated. Work was distributed with discrimination and amusements were provided. Physical restraint was limited to really violent or dangerous lunatics and was only resorted to when absolutely necessary.

SECTION 5.—Sanitation.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908.]

Sanitary Works. (a) Municipal.

273. The income of the Municipalities of the province in 1908 was over Rs. 19 lakhs and the percentage of their expenditure on Sanitation was 47·94, a slight increase on that of the previous year. Progress was made with important drainage and sanitary schemes in various towns. A preliminary report and estimates amounting to Rs. 5 lakhs for the improvement of the water-supply of Dacca have received the sanction of Government. Detailed estimates are being drawn up and the order for the pumping plan and filters has been placed. It is proposed at present to deliver water for eight hours daily at the rate of 100,000 gallons an hour. A surface drainage scheme for the new Civil Station at Dacca has been drawn up at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,81,270, and surveys have also been made for draining the city. Alternative schemes are being formulated in the rough for sewage and surface drainage, and the anticipated cost is from Rs. 20 to 25 lakhs. In the meantime the conservancy scheme for the collection of night-soil at central depôts and its removal by tramway to a trenching ground 5 miles away is practically completed. It has cost approximately Rs. 3 lakhs. The water-works at Narayanganj were finished during the year and are working satisfactorily. A preliminary project for the improvement of the water-works at Mymensingh at an estimated cost of Rs. 50,000 has been formulated, and administrative sanction has been given. The preliminaries of a drainage scheme for the town are also under consideration. The trial artesian borings proved successful at Chittagong and arrangements have now been made to sink two 6″ wells. If the supply of water prove sufficient for the requirements of the town, a pumping plant will be installed and distribution piping laid down. At Rampur-Boalia five trial tube-wells were sunk and water has been found at a depth of between 80 and 100 feet. At Rangpur the drainage scheme for the Civil Station is being drawn up, and preliminary surveys for the drainage of the *bils* lying between Rangpur and Teesta have been made. The drainage scheme of the town of English Bazar in the Malda District has been sanctioned and the work is in process of construction. Other schemes of water-supply and drainage for Barisal, Faridpur, Chandpur and Nator are under consideration. In Assam drainage schemes for the towns of Gauhati, Dibrugarh, Golaghat and Silchar are being drawn up and water-works are also under construction at Imphal, the capital of Manipur State, and at Haflong in the North Cachar Hills. At Shillong a thorough enquiry was made into the condition of the water, and proposals for a combined fire protection scheme and water-supply have been drawn up.

(b) District and Local Boards.

274. An expenditure of Rs. 1,72,470 was incurred by District and Local Boards for sanitary works. The money was chiefly spent on the improvement of rural water-supplies. Practically no other work was undertaken by the Boards. The grant-in-aid made by the Sanitary Board for the improvement of water-supply rose to Rs. 59,000 in the financial year of 1908-1909 from Rs. 17,000 in the corresponding period of the previous year. A representation was made by the Board that the conditions under which these grants had been hitherto given were too restricted. It was pointed out that in the Assam Valley Districts and in parts of Eastern Bengal very little aid could be obtained locally either in the form of money or labour, and that if urgently needed improvements were to be given effect to, the cost must practically be shared by the Local and District Boards and the Government. The Sanitary Board have since been given authority to relax the rule requiring the contribution of one-third of the cost from the local people in cases in which they consider it desirable to do so. This concession has already considerably increased the demands for money.

Sale of Quinine.

275. There was a considerable increase in the sale of quinine, 33,608 packets having been sold or 14,615 more than in 1907. The use of the drug continues to be most popular in the Bakarganj district, where 19,000 packets were sold. On the other hand, very little success attended the efforts of the local authorities to stimulate sales in districts where fever is most prevalent. Generally speaking, however, interest in the scheme of quinine distribution is spreading throughout the Province, and District and Local Boards are beginning to spend money in advertising its value as a prophylactic and as a remedy.

SECTION 6.—Vaccination.

[*See* the Vaccination Returns of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908-1909; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

Vaccination.

276. Excluding secondary operations, 1,449,658 operations were performed during the year, of which 1,349,379 were primary and 100,279 re-vaccination cases. These figures represent a total increase of 91,014 operations as compared with the previous year. The increase was due mainly to the greater activity displayed in the presence of small-pox during the last quarter of the year. The total number of deaths from small-pox was 12,182 or ·39 per mille of population, against ·28 during the previous year. Constant importation of small-pox cases from Calcutta was responsible for the increase. Special Vaccinators were appointed to work in the affected localities and the strength of the supervising staff was increased, where necessary. Satisfactory progress was made in overcoming the objections to vaccination entertained in some parts of Assam and in the hill districts. A sufficient quantity of glycerinated vaccine was regularly supplied to all Civil Surgeons, and there was no necessity to use vaccine taken direct from calves or from the arms of vaccinated subjects. The total cost of the Department was Rs. 1,10,613-11-11, of which Rs. 87,241-2-11 were paid from Provincial Funds, Rs. 16,977-5-1 from Local Funds, Rs. 4,786-3-11 from Municipal Funds and Rs. 1,609 by the Manipur State.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—General System of Public Instruction.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, pages 185-190.]

SECTION 2.—Education.

[*See* General Report on Public Instruction in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1908-1909; Statistics of British India, Part VII.]

General.

277. The year under review was one of record progress in almost every department of educational activity. Under the stimulus of increases in total expenditure during the last two years, public institutions increased in 1908-09 by 1,413 and their scholars by 81,797, the latter figure easily surpassing the increase recorded last year of 72,289, which itself had never previously been equalled. The Inspecting staff was further increased during the year under review by the appointment of two new Inspectors, two Assistant Inspectors, nine Deputy Inspectors, eleven Sub-Inspectors, and ten Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools. A first step was taken towards the formation of a female inspecting agency by the appointment of an Inspectress of Girls' schools in the province. Sanction was received during the year to enlarged cadres of both the Provincial and Subordinate Services. In the former the Assam officers on higher pay have all been included, while in the latter places have been found for all the Boards' Sub-Inspectors whose services were provincialised with effect from 4th January 1909. The increased demands of the University under the new Regulations led to the appointment of 9 additional Professors in Government Colleges and the creation of 23 new posts in Government High schools. The latter included the provision for 5 additional lady teachers at the Eden High School, Dacca. Twenty-eight temporary posts were also sanctioned for the Bhola and Jhalakati High schools which were re-started under Government auspices during the year.

Colleges.

278. The number of Colleges remained unaltered at 11, but there was a slight decrease in the number of collegiate students from 1,394 to 1,329 owing to students being allowed by the University to appear at supplementary examinations. Both those who passed the supplementary F. A., as well as those who failed at either the F. A. or B. A., were prevented by the Regulations from rejoining their Colleges until after the close of the year. The Jagannath College, Dacca, was raised in status to the first grade from May 1908, and from the beginning of the present session the Cotton College, Gauhati, has also been raised to the first grade. The province has now, therefore, 5 first-grade and 6 second-grade Colleges. The Government grant was withdrawn from the Pabna College for inefficiency, and, under orders of the Government of India, it will cease to be affiliated from June 1911. The Mymensingh Branch of the City College was closed at the beginning of the year, but in its place a new second-grade College has been started through the efforts of a local committee. Negotiations are proceeding for the amalgamation of the Pramatha-Manmatha College at Tangail with the Mymensingh College in order to ensure that there should be one strong College in the district. Capital grants for buildings and equipment amounting in all to Rs. 88,658 were given out during the year to aided Colleges, while a sum of Rs. 55,000 has been promised to the new Mymensingh College. The equipment of the Chemical and Physical Departments at both the Dacca Colleges was completed and Dacca may now challenge comparison in respect of up-to-date laboratories with any other collegiate town in India. Collegiate students appeared at the Intermediate and B. A. examinations for the first time under the new Regulations at the close of the year. The percentage of success at the B. A. increased from 37·9 to 47·4, but the results of the Intermediate examination were inferior to those obtained at the last F. A. examination, only 30·3 per cent. of the candidates passing against 53·6.

High Schools.

279. The number of High schools decreased by one, but the number of male pupils increased by 2,034. The increase in the number of pupils was due almost entirely to Muhammadan boys, the number of Hindu boys remaining practically stationary. Eight High schools were disaffiliated by the University owing to their inability to comply with the new Regulations, but the enforcement of the new Regulations has not caused the retardation of high education that popular apprehension anticipated. Two new Government High schools were started at Bhola and Jhalakati on the disaffiliation of the former schools. A scheme for improving the prospects of teachers in aided High schools by increased grants-in-aid was initiated, and 30 High

schools received enhanced grants—in several cases of considerably more than Rs. 150 a month. In each case the staff of the school was remodelled in accordance with the recommendations of the Inter-Provincial Conference on Secondary Education.

Out of 3,192 candidates for the Entrance examination last March (the last examination to be held under the old Regulations) 2,127, or 67 per cent., passed. The percentages of success at Government, aided and unaided High schools were 84·4, 67·4 and 60·6, respectively. This result was an improvement in Government and aided schools, but a smaller proportion of boys passed from unaided schools than was the case in previous years.

Middle schools.

280. Middle English schools increased in number from 541 to 584 and their pupils by 6,655, or 14 per cent. It will be necessary to allot funds for increased aid to Middle English schools, as otherwise it will not be possible for most of them to teach in accordance with the new Secondary curriculum. Middle Vernacular schools continued to disappear. Their number decreased from 414 to 405, and though pupils increased by 478, the number of boys reading in the middle classes declined by 369. It is anticipated that most of these schools, under the influence of the new curricula now being introduced, will be converted into Middle English schools, for English is taught in most of them and they are thus already in practice Middle English schools.

Primary schools.

281. The number of Primary schools for boys increased by 525 and the number of pupils under instruction by 51,454. The Upper Primary schools decreased from 2,227 to 2,180, but their pupils increased by 2,758, or 2·4 per cent. Lower Primary schools rose from 15,289 to 15,861, or 3·7 per cent., and their pupils by 48,696, or 9·7 per cent. Their increase was partly due to the allotment of Rs. 369,250 for the general improvement of Primary education in Boards' areas, of which roughly two-thirds were devoted to non-recurring expenditure (buildings, etc.). Three hundred and fifty additional houses for Boards' schools in Eastern Bengal were erected during the year. The institution of Board Primary schools in Eastern Bengal districts is an innovation; and the schools which are being started are distinctly better than those in Assam. The former have on the average 49 pupils and cost Rs. 143, while the average Assam Board school educates 39 pupils at a cost of Rs. 131 per annum. In Eastern Bengal Rs. 54 of the total is met from private sources, whereas in Assam the cost, with the exception of Rs. 3, has to be met entirely from public funds. A revised curriculum for Primary schools is under consideration.

Training of teachers.

282. The number of Normal schools remained unchanged, while the unavoidable decrease of 3 in the number of Guru Training schools was compensated for by the holding of special classes for Gurus at Normal schools. The examination results of the year were good. the 5 Normal schools passing 123 students, against 84 in the previous year, while the 38 Guru Training schools and the special classes at the Dacca and Silchar Normal schools passed 498 candidates, as compared with 350 in 1907-08. In addition, 15 apprentices in the Surma Valley were granted certificates of training. Much improvement has taken place in the last three years, but it will take a long time to train all the teachers in the province. The Normal schools in the two parts of the province were placed under the same curricula during the year, and uniform rules of management were adopted. There are reported to be only 25 trained women teachers in the whole province. Two training classes for mistresses, one English and the other Vernacular, were opened at the Eden High School, and it is encouraging to record that the number of sanctioned stipends (15) has already had to be increased.

Professional and Technical Education.

283. The B. L. classes held in connexion with three first-grade colleges in the province have for a long time been recognized as unsatisfactory. The preliminary steps have been taken to establish in their place a properly equipped Law College at Dacca, which, it is hoped, will be opened in 1910. There are two Medical Schools supported by Government, one at Dacca and the other at Dibrugarh. The number of students in these schools rose from 299 to 313, including 30 native military medical students, who under the arrangements made in the previous year are trained for appointments as Hospital Assistants in the Subordinate Medical Department. The fact that out of 263 candidates for admission into the Ahsanulla School of Engineering at Dacca only 52 could be admitted owing to want of accommodation proves that the demand for technical education is increasing rapidly, and that either increased accommodation will have to be provided in the Ahsanulla School or other institutions of a similar status must be opened elsewhere. The results of the Overseer Examination at the Dacca School were poor, only 7 passing out of 27 candidates, but there was a slight improvement in the Sub-Overseer Examination. There are 5 other Technical Schools in the province in which Engineering up to the Sub-Overseer class is taught, but the number of pupils attending the classes declined. In addition, there are 8 "B" classes attached to High schools.

INSTRUCTION.

The Local Government has now sanctioned 6 scholarships to enable pupils from this province to take the mining course in the Bengal Engineering College. Two of the scholarships are reserved for Europeans or Eurasians, 2 for Muhammadans and 2 for Hindus. Industrial Schools exist at Comilla, Barisal, Mymensingh, Bogra, Pabna, Chittagong, Kohima and Shillong and artisan classes are also held in the Technical Schools of the province.

A highly successful Conference to promote the industries of the province was held last March under the presidency of Mr. R. Nathan, C.I.E., I.C.S. All the leading industries of the Province were in turn discussed, and the suggestions of the Conference were embodied in a series of resolutions. The most important recommendation from the educational point of view was that a separate Department should be formed under a "Director of Industries," who would be responsible for technical and industrial education.

Female Education.

284. There was a remarkable expansion of female education, the increase in the number of girls at school being almost as great in the single year as in the entire quinquennium of 1902—07 (24,493 as compared with 30,037). Eight hundred and nineteen fresh girls' schools were opened. At the present rate of spontaneous progress Eastern Bengal and Assam will soon have a larger aggregate number of girls' schools, as well as girls at school, than the older province of Bengal. It is noteworthy that Musalman girls accounted for 71·6 per cent. of the increase in the total number of girls in Eastern Bengal. The high efficiency of the system of encouraging female education by grants through Boards is shown by the fact that the increase in the Rajshahi Division was obtained at a cost per additional girl of only Re. 1-4 and that in Chittagong of Rs. 2-1. Co-education, which appears to have been worked with some success in backward localities, is regarded with considerable disfavour in the more educated districts. Thus only 902 girls were reported to be attending the 446 Board schools in the Dacca Division, in spite of departmental pressure on the Gurus to induce them to teach girls in their schools and the monetary inducements held out to them in the way of additional grants. Under the supervision of the Inspectress of Schools zenana education in Dacca town began to make satisfactory progress. Two extra teachers were employed and the total number of zenana pupils in the province increased from 180 to 273. The Standing Committee on Female Education at their second meeting last February recommended the opening of eight more classes, supervised mainly by Ladies' Committees. Lack of funds has, however, prevented any further steps being taken at present in the matter.

European Education.

285. Of the six European schools in the province, the St. Gregory's school at Dacca continued steadily to increase, the number of children on the 31st of March during the last three years being 122, 137 and 155. The school is recognised as a High school by the Calcutta University and has a great future before it, provided the staff is suitably strengthened from time to time. The buildings were enlarged during the year with the assistance of a Government grant of Rs. 6,000. The only Government school for Europeans—the Pine Mount school, Shillong—is handicapped by the difficulty of access to the summer capital, but steps have been taken for the school to be more widely advertised and a local Committee is about to be appointed for its proper supervision.

Muhammadan Education.

286. The increase of 56,132 in the number of Muhammadans at public schools surpassed even the record of last year. Muhammadan education is progressing most satisfactorily in the Chittagong Division, where 44·3 per cent. of the available Muhammadan boys were at school, while in Rajshahi the percentage was only 26. The results of the higher University examinations were very poor, but 284 Muhammadan boys passed the Entrance examination against 132 in the previous year. An increase in the number of Muhammadan students in Colleges may therefore be expected in the near future. An important step in the reform of Madrassa education was taken during the year by the appointment of a Committee of enquiry which held its first meeting at Dacca last January. The Committee recommended that English should be taught in the Junior department of Madrassas up to the Middle English standard and that ordinary school subjects, such as History and Geography, should also be introduced. The Senior course has been recast and an Anglo-Arabic side added, while proposals have also been made for a Title course for Maulvis who have duly qualified by passing one of the Senior Madrassa examinations. The great majority of the 153 Madrassas in the province are Junior Madrassas and work under very little supervision. Arrangements have been made for a thorough inspection of all these Madrassas, and a Junior Madrassa examination to test the efficiency of their work will probably be established in the near future.

287. The total numbers of *tols*, both public and private, decreased from 429 to 410, but their pupils rose from 5,703 to 6,072. The examination of *tol* candidates is now conducted by a Joint Board for the two Provinces, the Principal of the Sanskrit College, Calcutta, being the Secretary to the Board, and Dr. Ashutosh Mookerjee, Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, the President. Much, however, remains to be done departmentally for the improvement of education in *tols* by competent inspection and increased grant-in-aid. Sanskrit Education.

288. The same unsatisfactory state of discipline in the higher educational institutions of the province as was commented on in previous years again displayed itself in the earlier part of the year under review, when teachers and pupils of several schools took part in political agitation. A great improvement took place later in the year, when as a result of the various measures taken by Government all demonstrations ceased. Professional incompetence and lack of any sense of the duties of their office unfit many of the teachers to influence their pupils in the interests of discipline or the formation of character; and it will be the first duty of the Training College for secondary teachers, shortly to be opened at Dacca, to cure these defects in the teachers of the future. The number of hostels steadily increased and within the next year it is expected that no Government High schools will be without some kind of hostel. Various incidents during the year have shown that there is a tendency for Hostel Superintendents to neglect the proper supervision of the boys placed under their charge, and this lack of supervision is even more evident in Messes. If funds be available for the provision of sufficient hostel accommodation, it is desirable that the Mess system should be abolished altogether. Discipline, Moral and Physical Training.

Efforts are being made by the Department to encourage inter-school athletic competitions in the various Divisions, but difficulty is often experienced in consequence of the apathy of both parents and teachers. As the indigenous system of exercise known as *Deshi-Kasrat* is prescribed in the new curricula, both primary and secondary, in place of drill, peripatetic teachers from Assam are now introducing the subject into Eastern Bengal by means of central classes for teachers at High and Guru Training Schools. Inspectors report that the new substitute for drill is being favourably received.

289. The total expenditure on public instruction rose from Rs. 58,28,536 to Rs. 66,34,467, an increase of 13·8 per cent. Provincial revenues contributed Rs. 20,20,947, Local funds Rs. 14,91,455, Municipal funds Rs. 42,164, fee collections Rs. 22,09,817 and other sources Rs. 8,70,084. The total increase from public funds was Rs. 5,50,116 and from private sources Rs. 2,55,815. Finance.

SECTION 3.—Literature and the Press.

290. The total number of publications registered during the year was 223, of which 98 were educational and 125 non-educational works. Twenty books were written in English, 30 in Assamese and 137 in Bengali. Language and grammar were the subject chosen in 48 cases, religion in 33, poetry in 27, mathematics in 14, while 58 were classified under the head "Miscellaneous" and 12 as periodicals. As in the previous year, many of the publications were of a political character, containing extremely crude economic ideas with expressions of hatred of the foreigner and constant reiteration of alleged oppression and grievances. These works are turned out in considerable numbers and published at prices within the command of all but the very poorest. Literary Works.

291. The local press consisted of 7 Anglo-Vernacular and 46 Vernacular papers. The political events of the year naturally received the almost exclusive attention of most of these papers, which continued to be guided in tone by the Calcutta press. Only three papers which deal with political questions ranged themselves on the side of Government, namely, the East of Dacca and two Assamese publications. The tone of the great majority was most violent during the first part of the year, but after the passing of the Newspapers Act an improvement took place, which became more noticeable towards the close of the year. In part too, doubtless, this change of tone is attributable to the reaction from the desperate crimes of the anarchists and the realization from the measures taken by Government that further violence was not expedient. One paper changed its opinions completely and at the close of the year contained articles condemning nationalist methods, several others refrained from openly countenancing violence, and the two most extreme papers, the Barisal Hitaishi and the Purba Bangala (Dacca), had become more guarded in their expressions and carried on their policy of criminal suggestion in more veiled and ambiguous language. Though open encouragement of violence and sedition had disappeared at the end of the year, hatred of the British administration and officials was still inculcated. Newspapers.

SECTION 4.—Scientific and Literary Societies.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, page 194.]

SECTION 5.—Arts and Sciences.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Work of the year.

292. The restoration of the ancient monuments at Gaur and Pandua was finished during the year at a cost of Rs. 60,417. Preliminary steps were taken towards declaring the mosque at Kusumba a protected monument under the Act with a view to keep the building in permanent repair, and repairs to the fort at Dimapur in the Naga Hills were completed. The ruins at Rangpur in the Sibsagar district were acquired by Government. A very interesting discovery was made near Narayanganj in the Dacca district where seven old brass cannon were unearthed. From the inscriptions it appears that they belong to the Muhammadan period and date from the 16th century.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, page 193.]

SECTION 2.—Ecclesiastical.

Ecclesiastical.

293. The Ecclesiastical Establishment of the Province consists of the Government Chaplains of Shillong and Dacca. From 30th June to 17th October 1908 there was no Government Chaplain at Dacca, the duties being performed by the Clergy of the Oxford Mission. Six other stations, *viz.*, Darrang, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Chittagong, Saidpur and Silchar, have Chaplains, whose incomes are derived from private subscriptions or contributions from Missionary Societies, supplemented by Government grants. The Chaplaincy of Darrang was, however, vacant from 24th September to 13th November 1908, and the Chaplaincy of Saidpur from January 1908. The following table shows the sources from which the aided Chaplains receive their stipends apart from the Government grants :—

Name of station.	Sources from which stipend is derived.
Darrang	Society for the propagation of the Gospel (Rs. 100).
Sibsagar	Private subscription from tea-planters (Rs. 350).
Lakhimpur	Society for the propagation of the Gospel (Rs. 100).
Chittagong	Additional Clergy Society (Rs. 100), private subscriptions (Rs. 100).
Saidpur	Calcutta Diocesan Additional Clergy Society (Rs. 200).
Silchar	Cachar Clergy Fund (Rs. 100), Society for the propagation of the Gospel (Rs. 150).

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

Stationery.

294. The value of the Stationery supplied during the year by the Controller of Stationery, Calcutta, to the various Government offices and departments in this Province was Rs. 3,03,593, or nearly double that of the preceding year. The increase mainly occurred in the cost of Stationery supplied to the Printing Presses, which rose from Rs. 23,419 to Rs. 1,45,062.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

Printing.

295. The cash receipts of the Secretariat Press amounted to Rs. 6,391, or Rs. 1,577 in excess of the previous year's receipts, while expenditure rose from Rs. 1,71,210 tc Rs. 2,21,751. The total value of the work done by the Press amounted to Rs. 2,84,613. After making allowance for wear and tear of plant and materials, for the value of condemned type and for paper and binding materials, the profit and loss account of the Press showed a net gain of Rs. 21,267. There was a considerable increase in the outturn of work. During the year a Camp Press was started involving an expenditure of Rs. 7,263. In the Central Jail Press, Dacca, the cash receipts amounted to Rs. 65 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,37,060. The total value of the work turned out was Rs. 1,55,736. After making necessary allowances, a net loss of Rs. 17,545 was shown.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year 1908-1909.]

Veterinary Work.

296. he staff of the Veterinary Department was reinforced during the year by 12 graduate assistants, but is still far below the sanctioned strength. In spite of this, considerable success was attained in dealing with contagious diseases. Over 85,000 deaths from such diseases among cattle were reported during the year, rinderpest being the principal scourge. The number of inoculations done by the Assistants of the Department proper showed an increase of 15,829, and the utility of this work can be seen from the fact that out of 50,194 cattle inoculated in villages where outbreaks of

rinderpest occurred, only 444 died, while 7,673 deaths were reported among uninoculated animals. Inoculation was also used as a preventive of anthrax among horses as well as cattle. In order that the Veterinary Staff may receive more timely warning of the appearance of any contagious disease, it has been arranged that touring officers of other Departments shall report any outbreak that comes to their notice. The itinerating Veterinary Assistants visited 6,382 villages and treated 64,012 animals, as compared with 4,146 villages and 35,354 animals in the previous year. Two new dispensaries were opened and the number of animals treated at dispensaries and hospitals rose from 13,905 to 15,390.

297. The number of stud bulls kept by Government and Local Bodies in the several districts rose from 25 to 34. The breeding on the Upper Shillong Cattle Farm was not very satisfactory, but the young stock are very promising. Breeding Operations.

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Phulpur
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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1909-1910.

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1909-1910.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

Tours.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor left Shillong on his monsoon tour on the 24th July and visited Mangaldai, Barpeta, Goalpara, Rampur-Boalia and Malda, whence he visited the ruins of Gaur. Besides the usual inspections, Sir Lancelot Hare received and replied to addresses from various bodies. His Honour arrived at Dacca on the 13th August, and, during his stay there, attended and addressed a conference of the leading Muhammadan and Hindu landholders of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

On the 28th August His Honour left Dacca and, after visiting Gauhati on the 30th, arrived at Shillong on the 31st.

Sir Lancelot left Shillong on the 21st November for Agartala, visiting Gauhati on the way. His Honour arrived at Agartala on the 24th and exchanged a formal visit with His Highness the Raja. On the 25th Sir Lancelot Hare installed the Raja on the *gadi* of his ancestors and was his principal guest at a State Banquet in the evening; next day he laid the foundation stone of the Maharani Tulshibati Girls' School and returned to Dacca in the afternoon.

On December 13th His Honour left Dacca for Calcutta to confer with the Financial Member and the Home Secretary and other officials of the Government of India, returning to Dacca on December 19th.

His Honour again left Dacca on the 14th January and visited Chittagong and Gauhati, where he formally opened the Gauhati extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Sir Lancelot then visited Dhubri in order to open the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition on February 3rd, and thereafter Kurigram and Gaibanda, where the usual addresses were received, returning to Dacca on the 8th February. A Darbar was held by the Lieutenant-Governor on March 16th to present "Sanads" and "Khillats" to the recipients of new titles.

His Honour left Dacca for Shillong on the 6th April.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the Administration.

2. The principal changes in administration during the year under review were the elevation of the outlying Criminal Court at Gopalganj in Faridpur district to the status of a subdivision, the establishment of outlying Criminal Courts at Shazadpur in Pabna and at Jaydebpur in Dacca district, and the addition of 53 posts to the cadre of the Provincial Civil and Subordinate Executive Services. A few border villages in Nadia were formally re-transferred from Bengal to this Province, and certain small frontier areas were added to the Naga Hills and Sibsagar districts.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Manipur.

3. The year was one of peaceful progress and closed with a satisfactory surplus. There was a severe epidemic of malaria, but apart from this public health was fair, and when the water-works now under consideration are completed Imphal will be less exposed to the ravages of cholera. The price of food-grains continued to be low, and a brisk export trade in rice was maintained.

Hill Tippera.

4. The chief events of the year were the installation of Raja Birendra Kishore Manikya and the visit to the State on that occasion of His Honour Sir Lancelot Hare, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The only important administrative change was the reversion of the Minister, Babu Annada Charan Gupta, to his substantive post of Deputy Magistrate and Collector, Eastern Bengal and Assam, and the appointment in his place of Maharaj Kumar Navadwip Chandra Dev Barman. The year may be said to have been a prosperous one, and though the gross income showed a slight falling off as compared with the previous year, receipts from the more stable forms of income increased. The condition both of the hills and of the plains people was on the whole good, though floods in the Gumti and Mohuri Valleys did damage. Public health was exceptionally good, thanks to the total absence of epidemics.

Frontier Tribes.

5. With few exceptions the frontier tribes behaved well throughout the year. Miris from the Sidang Hill raided a Marwari's shop at Derpai, but much of the looted property was recovered and a fine of Rs. 300 was paid by the offenders. The Nauduar Daflas raided the camps of two elephant mahaldars and carried off three captives from Darrang. One was handed over at once to emissaries sent to demand their surrender. The remaining two were recovered by a small force, which visited and punished the offending village, after the close of the year. The Deputy Commissioner, Naga Hills, conducted two successful expeditions, one against the village of Mozungjami, the other against the Aishan Kukis, who had been harrying British and Manipuri subjects.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the people.

6. The material condition of the people was better than in the three preceding years owing to an excellent crop of rice and a general decline in the prices of food-grains. Even the growers of rice were more than compensated for the fall in prices by the increased outturn of the harvest. There was a great improvement in the position of all persons with fixed incomes, and the effects of the previous scarcity in the Rajshahi Division were practically obliterated.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Realisation of the Revenue.

7. There was an increase in the total revenue-paying area accompanied by an increase of over two and a half lakhs in the revenue demand. An increase in the percentage of collections was accompanied by a slight increase in the extent to which coercive measures were employed, but the law on the whole was very leniently administered. Under miscellaneous land revenue there was an increase in collections and a large reduction of the outstanding balance, while the amounts remitted were less than in the previous year. In Eastern Bengal there was an increase in the number of applications for registration, but there was at the same time an improvement in disposal. There was a similar improvement in Assam. In Eastern Bengal there was a further decrease in the disposal of partition cases, while the number of cases instituted rose. Nearly 1,729 acres were permanently acquired under the Land Acquisition Act at a cost of nearly 9 lakhs of rupees, of which over 7 were disbursed on account of Government, 1 on account of railways, and about half a lakh on account of District and Local Boards. An area of 1,694 acres was acquired for temporary occupation. Under the Land Improvements Loans Act advances amounting to Rs. 8,700 only were made as compared with Rs. 41,070 in the preceding year, while under the Agriculturists Loans Act advances fell from Rs. 4,84,689 to Rs. 1,79,705 owing to more favourable agricultural conditions.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and Settlements.

8. Traverse parties were employed in the Lakhimpur, Jalpaiguri, Mymensingh and Dacca districts. Important boundary demarcation work was carried out in and round the Goalpara district, and a 16″=1 mile survey of the new civil station at Dacca was executed. The Bakarganj settlement was virtually completed and the final report is under preparation. In Faridpur the record of the last block, including the riparian zones of Pabna and Tippera has been published in draft. In Mymensingh and Jalpaiguri the cadastral survey, preparation and preliminary explanation of the record

of the second and third blocks, respectively, were successfully carried out, and in the former district the attestation and draft publication of the first block were also practically finished, whilst in the latter these stages were actually completed for the second block and standard rates for the Bhotepati Group in the Western Duars were determined. In Dacca the record of the riparian zones was brought up to the stage of attestation. Settlement operations under the district officer were also in progress in seven other Eastern Bengal districts. In Assam, good progress was made with the re-settlement of the Lakhimpur district, map revision and land classification were virtually completed in the second of two blocks into which the district has been divided; while the record attestation of the first block was carried out completely and an important innovation for Assam was introduced in the shape of field-to-field verification and local attestation in the presence of the raiyats. Minor re-settlement work was in progress in Cachar and Sylhet. The final report of the Nowgong settlement was received and submitted to the Government of India.

LAND RECORDS.

Land Records.

9. A draft scheme for the maintenance of the Land Record in Eastern Bengal was prepared during the year, but was not submitted for the consideration of Government. Apart from the difficulty of providing the funds that would be required it is not certain whether in its present form the scheme would secure the support of the land-holding community. In Assam selected mauzadars were invested with the powers of Assistant Settlement Officers to dispose of uncontested mutation cases.

SETTLEMENTS FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlements for special cultivation.

10. During the year there was an increase of 6,456 acres in the area settled for 'special cultivation,' *i.e.*, for the cultivation of tea, coffee and other produce which is not included among the ordinary staples of the province and which requires a considerable expenditure of capital. By far the greater part of the land settled under these rules is cultivated with tea.

GOVERNMENT, WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Government Estates.

11. There were 1,590 Government Estates in Eastern Bengal as compared with 1,572 in the previous year. There was an increase in the revenue demand and a decrease in the proportionate cost of management and collections. The colonisation of the Bakarganj Sundarbans continued to progress favourably.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

12. The number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the close of the year was 47. There was further improvement in the payment of revenue and cesses due to Government, but payments to superior landlords were not satisfactory. Collections of rent and cesses showed marked improvement, but sufficient attention was not paid to the working of the certificate procedure or to the recovery of amounts decreed by the Civil Courts.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

13. Both landlords and tenants are beginning to acquire a better knowledge of the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, but illegal exactions and illegal methods are frequent. The powers of a Collector, under section 58 of the Act, were given to Settlement Officers, Subdivisional officers and the senior Deputy Collectors at district headquarters to enable them to deal with cases in which receipts are not granted in accordance with the law. An improvement in the condition of tenants was indicated by the continued decrease of transfers by voluntary sale. Landlords are still slow to claim their fees for transfer in spite of the amendment in the Tenancy Act providing that the acceptance of such fees should not operate as an admission of the accuracy of the statements made in the deed of transfer.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Legislation.

14. The regulation framed for Eastern Bengal and Assam, under the Indian Councils Act of 1909, came into force on the 15th November, and provided for an increase in the Legislative Council and a non-official majority therein. The Eastern Bengal and Assam General Clauses Bill was passed into law as Act I of 1909, and the Eastern Bengal and Assam Excise Bill after the close of the year as Act I of 1910.

POLICE.

Military Police.

15. The total strength of military police of all ranks rose to 3,022, the total cost of maintenance rising from Rs. 10,58,145 to Rs. 10,61,130. The health of the force was, not so good as in previous years, the percentage of admissions into hospital to actual strength showing an increase from 108·9 to 115·4. There was however a decrease in the number of deaths. 'A detachment of the Naga Hills Battalion was sent on an expedition, which was entirely successful, to Mozangjami. The force as a whole maintained its reputation for general efficiency.

Civil police

16. The strength of the civil police in nearly all ranks showed an increase, but it was still unequal to the heavy duties laid upon it. The inadequacy of the ordinary reserve threw upon the armed reserve duties which properly appertain to the ordinary reserve. A noteworthy feature of the year under review was the increasing difficulty of obtaining local recruits. There was a slight improvement in the general health of the force, but there was much sickness in some districts.

Railway and river police.

17. The measures adopted during the year led to an almost complete cessation of running-train thefts on the Chittagong port line and at the Chittagong jetties, but there were two important thefts from Marwaris on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, both of which were undetected. To protect remittances in connection with the jute trade a special force of river police was employed to patrol a certain area. No dacoity was reported from within this area.

Rural Police.

18. The work of the rural police continued to be somewhat perfunctory in its character, and in districts where presidents of panchayats have been appointed, both presidents and chaukidars in many cases failed to render proper assistance to the regular police.

Crime.

19. Statistics indicate a successful year's work, if the percentage of convictions in cases sent up can be taken as a criterion. A free use was made of section 157, Criminal Procedure Code, but the power of the police in this respect seems to have been exercised with sound judgment. There was a serious increase in the number of murders, but a decrease in the number of riots in spite of the fact that a less free use was made of section 107, Criminal Procedure Code.

There was an increase in the number of dacoities, and there seem grounds for holding that this increase was due to the loss of prestige suffered by the police. From the first it has been the object of a certain section of political agitators to weaken the authority of Government and the fruit of their action was seen in increased audacity in the criminal classes. Serious crimes continued to be committed by young men of the middle class who professed to be acting from patriotic motives. A party of *bhadra-lok* youths brutally murdered, before the eyes of his family, the brother of a man who was suspected of giving information to the police. Another youth dangerously wounded a European clerk at Chittagong, not because he had any personal grounds of enmity towards him but because he desired to kill a European. Another serious crime was committed in the train near Rajendrapur, a band of youths attacking the native servants in charge of a jute remittance, killing one and seriously wounding two others and then absconding with their booty.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Criminal Justice.

20. The number of criminal offences reported showed a decrease of almost two thousand on the figures for 1908, and at the same time there was a slight increase in the number of true cases brought to trial. There was also an increase in the number of criminal cases disposed of by the Courts of first instance, and correspondingly a decrease in the appellate and revisional work of Magistrates. The number of miscellaneous proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure, although still high, was appreciably less than in 1908. There was a considerable increase in the number of disposals by District Magistrates, the figures being 1,794 in 1909 as compared with 940 in 1907 and 1,263 in 1908. The increase is probably in part due to the appointment of Additional Magistrates in some of the larger districts. In the Courts of Sessions there was a decrease of revisional work, but an increase in sessions and appellate work, 78 cases more than in the previous year being referred or committed for trial. The increase, slight as it was, in the periods for which witnesses were detained in Magistrates' Courts, was more than accounted for by a considerable increase in the number of witnesses examined, while in the Sessions Courts there was a further satisfactory improvement over 1908 as regards their speedy discharge. In the High Court, again, as in the Sessions Courts, a decrease of revisional work with an increase of appellate work is noticeable, the converse having been the case in 1908.

Offences against the State again increased in the year under review. They first made an appearance in the returns for 1907, in which year 7 persons were brought to trial for such offences, the number increased to 10 for 1908, and stood at 17 in the year 1909. On the other hand, there is a slight decrease in the number of persons proceeded against for the dissemination of seditious matter, the figures for 1909 being 17, as against 20 in 1908. It is worthy of notice that both trials for offences against the State and proceedings against the dissemination of seditious matter were confined to the 6 districts of Bakarganj, Faridpur, Tippera, Chittagong, Dacca, and Mymensingh.

Three cases involving 7 accused were committed to the High Court for trial under the provisions of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, XIV of 1908. Of these only one was actually brought to trial and ended in the acquittal of four accused persons. In each of the remaining cases the charge was, for various reasons, withdrawn under section 494, Criminal Procedure Code.

JAILS.

21. Two new subsidiary jails were opened, one at Gopalganj and one at Shahzadpur. The number of prisoners admitted was somewhat larger than in the preceding year and there was an increase of 126 in the daily total average population. The general health was good and the number of deaths decreased. The cash profits of manufactures were double those of 1908. Jails.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

22. The total number of suits for disposal showed an increase of 392 over last year, despite a decrease in institutions, and there was a considerable decrease in the disposal of suits, both contested and uncontested. This decrease was most marked in Bakarganj, Tippera, Chittagong and Noakhali, but in the case of the first and last of these it is partly accounted for by the employment of a smaller staff. There was a decrease in the disposal of suits by Munsifs' Courts, but an increase in that by Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and also in that by District and Additional Judges. Except in the Courts of Munsifs and Small Cause Court Judges, where it has increased, the average duration of suits shows a marked improvement. The number of appeals instituted was considerably greater than in the previous year and in spite of an increase in the number of disposals more cases were pending at the close of the year than at the end of 1908. The increase in disposals was due to a larger outturn of work by the District and Additional Judges. In fact a feature of the work of the year was the increase in the amount of civil business, both original and appellate, transacted and in the number of inspections of Subordinate Courts made by District Judges. Civil Justice.

REGISTRATION.

23. To cope with the growing needs of the Department 13 new Sub-Registry offices were opened, but the increase in the number of documents registered was not large. A decrease in the number of sales registered indicates some improvement in the condition of the people, though conditions of scarcity in the Rajshahi Division led to an increase in the number of mortgages. The Registrars of the districts in which registration declined attributed it generally to good crops and low prices, and in Sylhet an additional reason was put forward in the increasing tendency of the Muhammadan community to resort for the registration of marriages and divorces to Muhammadan Registrars. Both expenditure and receipts rose, the former by 7·3 per cent., reducing the net surplus by Rs. 26,654. Registration.

Under the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act there were 193 offices at work as against 187 in 1908, and there was an increase of 2·4 per cent. in the total number of ceremonies registered. The Act seems to be gradually gaining popularity in most districts.

Under the Indian Companies Act twenty new companies limited by shares and one limited by guarantee were registered, while one old company of the former class was wound up.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

24. There was an increase in the ordinary income of the municipalities during the year, and a much larger increase in expenditure which was met by Government grants and loans. Revised assessments provided for a net increase of Rs. 41,159, but there was very little improvement in the percentage of collections. Interest in Municipalities.

Municipal affairs seemed to increase; there was a rise in the number of meetings and in the average attendance. Progress was made in several towns in improvement of the water-supply, particularly at Dacca where nearly 4 lakhs were spent on the water-works. A number of faults in Municipal Administration were pointed out by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts in his report on the working of the Local Audit Department.

District and Local Boards.

25. The work of District and Local Boards showed some progress. The Boards continued to spend about 30 per cent. of their income on education, and in some cases pursued the policy of concentrating their grants to Lower Primary Schools, thus reducing the number of the latter but improving their efficiency. No advance however was made in technical education. Progress was made in opening dispensaries and dealing with epidemics, and excellent progress in the improvement of the water-supply, on which over 3 lakhs of rupees were spent. The Boards contributed grants to the Exhibitions at Noakhali, Dhubri, and Sylhet, but otherwise very little advance was made in industrial development.

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

Volunteer corps.

26. The number of volunteers in the province, including those of the Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles and the Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteer Rifles residing in this area but under the Presidency Brigade, amounted to 139 officers and 1,954 men. There was an increase of 87 in the personnel of the corps under the Assam Brigade.

MARINE.

Marine.

27. The income of the Chittagong Port Fund showed a decrease of Rs. 60,089 or 45·84 per cent. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,97,388 against Rs. 1,72,615 in the previous year. There was a decrease both in the number of vessels which entered and cleared from the Port during the year, and in their aggregate tonnage. The value of the imports and exports of the foreign and coasting trade during the year showed a decrease of 6·43 per cent. of the aggregate value of the trade. The construction of the revetment of the right bank of the Karnafuli river at the Port of Chittagong was continued. Government gave a grant of Rs. 1,75,000 to the Chittagong Port Trust towards the cost of the construction of the revetment and an equal amount was borrowed by the Port Trust from Government during the year for the same purpose. Government also gave a grant of Rs. 92,000 to the Port Trust towards the maintenance and working expenses of the dredger. A second dredger is much needed for the Port.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

28. During the year several additions were made to the superior cadre of the Department of Agriculture. A second Deputy Director, an Economic Botanist, and a European Gardener were appointed. The work of the Department was, however, handicapped by the lack of a sufficient staff. The various Government farms continued to experiment in different kinds of crops, *viz.*, jute, paddy, cowpea, potatoes, sugarcane, *dhaincha* and groundnuts. At the Upper Shillong farm cattle-breeding was continued. Poultry-breeding operations were commenced at Dacca, and in the Lushai Hills they proved a distinct success. The Central Seed Depôt, Dacca, continued to issue seeds, implements and manures, but only 75 natives of the province applied for seeds. Experiments in wet rice cultivation in the Naga Hills were a success, but the Nagas are conservative and slow to adopt new methods. The efforts of an instructor, whose services were lent by the Salvation Army, to introduce improved methods in hand-loom weaving were very successful. The principal exhibition of the year was the Dhubri exhibition, the largest ever held in this province.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

29. The year was one of healthy expansion on sound financial lines, and there was a large increase in the number both of urban and rural societies and of the capital invested in them. All the societies save one worked at a profit, but the profits of the

rural societies were carried to their reserve funds which now amount to a considerable sum. The tendency to borrow money from rural societies for reproductive purposes is increasing, and it is said that the rate of interest charged by *mahajans* is falling in areas where societies are numerous.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and crops.

30. On the whole, the year was favourable to the cultivator, and though the spring rainfall was somewhat in defect, the rainfall between July and September was abundant. There was a large increase in the cultivated area in Assam and the returns suggest that a considerable area, which during the previous year was lying fallow in Eastern Bengal, was again brought under crop. The rice crop was a little above normal and was estimated to be no less than 38 per cent. more than the notably poor harvest of the previous year. There was a marked fall in the price of both rice and jute, accompanied in the latter case by a decrease in the area under cultivation. Oilseeds did well, but sugarcane and tobacco did not give a good return.

FORESTS.

Forests.

31. There was an addition of 166 square miles to the area of reserved forests, bringing the total area at the close of the year to 6,477 square miles, but of the addition 104 square miles consisted of a paper addition merely. Satisfactory progress was made in bringing the reserves under systematic management by the preparation of working plans, and considerable sums were spent on communications and buildings, more than 164 miles of new roads and paths being constructed. Owing to the early rains there was very little damage from fire.

MANUFACTURES, MINES AND FACTORIES.

Manufactures.

32. The season on the whole was favourable to tea cultivation, and there was an extension of the area under the crop, and a considerable increase in outturn. The supply of labour increased slightly, and better prices were obtained for tea.

Mines.

33. There was a decrease in the output of limestone, but a slight increase in the production of petroleum and a larger increase in the amount of coal extracted, royalties increasing in proportion.

Factories.

34 One hundred and thirty-two factories were at work at the close of the year as against 101 in the preceding year. The sanitary arrangements and the general health of the operatives were satisfactory. The percentage of children employed fell from 2·9 to 2·5. There was no prosecution under the Act.

TRADE.

Maritime Trade.

35. The aggregate value of the Maritime Trade of the province diminished by Rs. 44·60 lakhs. Nearly the whole decrease is to be traced to diminution of Foreign Trade, which decreased by Rs. 42·24 lakhs. Coasting Trade showed a fall of Rs. 2·35 lakhs. There were smaller imports of salt, timber and Railway materials and very much smaller exports of jute and hemp. Notwithstanding the decrease in the aggregate value of the trade of the year under review, the average annual value of the trade of the past three years is far in advance of that of the preceding three years. The decrease mentioned was largely due to a return from abnormal to normal conditions.

Rail- and River-borne Trade.

36. The value of rail- and river-borne trade with other provinces increased in quantity by 6·6 per cent., but its value fell by ·8 per cent. to Rs. 4,708 lakhs, mainly owing to the low price of jute. Imports rose in value on account of the large increase in European piece-goods and yarn. Exports fell in value owing to the lower price of jute, but there was a large expansion of the export of tea and cotton.

Frontier Trade.

37. The aggregate value of frontier trade fell short of last year's figure by Rs. 2,03,971 or 29·79 per cent., a decrease which is attributed mainly to the compilation of more accurate statistics than in previous years. Imports were valued at Rs. 3,11,225 as against Rs. 4,10,358 in 1908-1909 and exports at Rs. 1,69,351 as against Rs. 2,74,189. The greater part of the trade still continued to be with Bhutan.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Public Works.

38, Many important projects were dealt with during the year by the Public Works Department. Good progress was made with the construction of the new Government Houses at Dacca and Chittagong. In the new Civil Station at Dacca there were 25 residences completed at the end of the year and 4 more were under

construction, while in various parts of the province new residences, offices, circuit-houses, *dák* and inspection bungalows, jails, schools, barracks, asylums, warehouses and registry offices were completed or begun, and repairs were carried out to the mosque at Kusumba, and to temples at Jaysagar and in the Kamrup district. Under the head of communications considerable progress was made in the construction of new roads, and several bridges were completed, while dredging and silt experiments were carried out on some rivers; the Gadadhar river was diverted into the Brahmaputra for the protection of the town of Dhubri. Some extensions of railways were being carried out or considered, and a detailed account of these as well as of other works will be found in Part II. The total expenditure on Public works was less by nearly 6½ lakhs of rupees than in the previous year.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross Revenue. 39. The gross receipts for the year, taking Imperial and Provincial revenues together and including adjustments between Imperial and Provincial revenues, aggregated Rs. 4,73,39,655, an approximate increase of 6¾ lakhs over the figures of 1908-1909.

Land Revenue. 40. Receipts rose by over 4 lakhs, towards which miscellaneous land revenue collections contributed an increase of more than Rs. 45,000 over the revised figures of the previous year. Collections of ordinary land revenue increased by over 3½ lakhs, reaching a percentage of 96·02 on the total demand, which is the highest percentage realised in the history of the province as at present constituted.

Customs. 41. Customs receipts fell to Rs. 9,47,227 owing to a smaller clearance of salt at Chittagong.

Salt. 42. Excluding duty-paid salt imported by rail and river, imports of salt decreased by 4·85 per cent. owing mainly to importation of duty-paid salt from Calcutta and to the closing of a bonded warehouse in Barisal. The decrease was most marked in imports from the United Kingdom, which fell by 52·7 per cent. The price of salt fell in almost all districts, the average wholesale price being Rs. 2-0-8 per maund as against Rs. 2-2-5 in 1908-1909. The net revenue from salt amounted to Rs. 17,43,328, a decrease of 13·79 per cent. on that of the previous year.

Excise. 43. The total excise revenue increased by 2·12 per cent. There was an increase of two lakhs in the revenue from *ganja* and the receipts from foreign liquor increased, but there was a decrease of about half a lakh each under the heads of opium and country liquor. The treasury price of opium was raised throughout Eastern Bengal and the Hill Districts of Assam, the rate of increase averaging Rs. 3·23 per seer. A reduction of 217 was made in retail licenses. The contract supply system was extended to Rajshahi. A new Excise Act for the province was passed by the Provincial Legislative Council.

Stamps. 44. There was an increase of over two lakhs in the revenue collected under the Stamp and Court Fees Acts, while the total charges slightly decreased. The amount of duty and penalty realized in cases dealt with by the Civil Courts increased by Rs. 706, while that realized by the revenue courts slightly decreased. The deficit duty realized after enquiry in probate cases amounted to 52·9 per cent. of the duty originally paid.

Income-tax. 45. There was an increase of 1·9 per cent. in the net revenue from income-tax. The final demand for the year rose to Rs. 10,11,112, of which 98·8 per cent. was collected.

Forest Revenue. 46. The receipts of the Forest Department decreased during the year, while the expenditure increased by Rs. 116. The surplus amounted to Rs. 5,38,317, a decrease of Rs. 48,185 on that of the previous year.

Provincial Finance. 47. The accounts for 1909-1910 showed an opening balance of Rs. 12,00,730. The gross receipts of the year aggregated Rs. 2,97,50,717, which, with the addition of the opening balance, gave a sum of Rs. 3,09,51,447 from which to meet the expenditure of the year. The total expenditure was Rs. 2,92,01,447. In the budget a deficit of over 31 lakhs had been estimated, but the Government of India sanctioned a contribution of about 31½ lakhs from the Imperial to the Provincial revenues.

Local Funds. 48. The financial position of the funds of which an account is still submitted to Government was sound. The total closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 19,18,565.

49. The current demand on account of Road and Public Works Cesses in Eastern Bengal rose by Rs. 1,64,741. The percentage of total collections fell from 100·39 per cent. to 96·02 per cent. In Assam the current demand rose to Rs. 7,56,699, but the percentage of collections fell from 114·06 per cent. to 108·92 per cent. Road and Public Works Cesses.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

50. The price of rice was lower in 1909 than it had been for the last 4 years, but owing to the high rainfall the death-rate was materially increased. The high mortality owing to fevers was the principal occasion of this, but there was also a noticeable increase in the number of deaths from small-pox. The provincial birth-rate (40·46) again was lower than last year (41·14), but it is still above the quinquennial average and compares very favourably with the rates of other provinces, being second only to the Central Provinces. Vital Statistics.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

51. Considerable further progress was made towards the elimination of the contractor and of coolies indented under Act VI of 1901. The percentage of such coolies fell from 8·9 to 5·9, while in 1903-1904 it stood at 20·8. The number of immigrants shows a decrease on 1908 owing to a return to normal conditions, but even so the fact that the number exceeds that of any year previous to 1907, while indentured labour was less, points to a gradual removal of the prejudices against emigration. The health of coolies, both on tea gardens and during transit, was greatly improved. The amount of Government land settled with time-expired coolies increased very considerably. Immigration.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

52. The dispensary returns for the year indicate that the popularity of these establishments is steadily growing. Although there was a decrease of one in the number of dispensaries, there was an increase of nearly 200,000 in the number of patients treated. There was also a large increase in the number of patients treated at markets, particularly in Assam. At the Sylhet Leper Asylum Professor Deycke's treatment was tried with success. Charitable Dispensaries.

53. There was a slight increase in the number of lunatics admitted, who continue to be mainly of the labouring or cultivating classes. Hindus exceed Muhammadans in a ratio of 2 to 1. Mania, as usual, accounted for the greater number of admissions. The health of the inmates was decidedly better than in 1908, but the want of accommodation led to considerable overcrowding at Tezpur. Proposals for the enlargement of this asylum are under the consideration of Government. Lunatic Asylums.

54. Progress was made with important schemes of water-supply and drainage in several municipalities of the province. On the average municipalities have spent nearly one-fifth of their income in this direction, and Government has afforded generous assistance in the case of any extensive scheme. At Dacca the surface drainage of the new station was in progress and the remodelling of the water-works and the conservancy tramway were completed. At English Bazar the drainage scheme was completed, and schemes have been sanctioned for increased water-supply and drainage at Mymensingh, Shillong, Nowgong, Nator and other places. At Chittagong the two wells were sunk which were arranged for in 1908. Sanitation

Altogetheron sanitary works generally the Provincial Government, Local and District Boards, and private individuals spent over 10 lakhs of rupees during the year.

The sale of quinine increased during the year at the cost of a serious loss to Government, but it is still to be regretted that the prejudice against it remains strongest in those districts where fever is most prevalent. A new scheme for quinine distribution has been under consideration with the object of inducing purchasers to make a more effective use of it.

Considerable success was achieved in the reduction of the prevalence of cholera among immigrant coolies which was so serious in 1908.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination

55. There was an increase of 7,396 operations over the figures for the previous year, but owing to an epidemic of small-pox the rates of deaths from that disease increased from ·39 per mille to ·72. Vaccination was pushed on vigorously in affected areas, and the staff added to where necessary. The total cost of the Department accordingly increased. Considerable progress was made towards overcoming local prejudice against vaccination, notably in the Naga and Abor Hills, and to some extent also in Tippera.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Education.

56. During the year under review expenditure decreased from Rs. 66,34,467 to Rs. 65,94,013. There was at the same time a decline in the number of public institutions, and the increase in the number of pupils was only 3,736 as compared with 81,797 in the previous year. The check was confined to primary education and may in part be due to the inclusion of schools in previous years which had not sufficient stability and worth to justify their being treated as public institutions. The grant for primary education also suffered a slight diminution and some District Boards appear to have acted without sufficient caution in closing schools believed to be redundant. The number of pupils attending colleges, high schools and middle English schools increased very considerably. Female education continued to expand, schools increased by 110 and pupils by 5,760. During the year two new Deputy Inspectors and three Sub-Inspectors were appointed, as well as two Assistant Inspectresses, but the inspecting staff is still short of the sanctioned strength. In primary schools a revised vernacular curriculum was framed and the board school system was extended in Eastern Bengal. The spread of primary education among Muhammadans was to a certain extent checked, but there was a very satisfactory increase in Muhammadan pupils in colleges, secondary schools and girls' schools. There was an increase in middle *madrassas* and 10 Muhammadan hostels were completed or under construction during the year.

There was a marked improvement in the discipline in schools, and the authorities of many privately managed institutions co-operated with the Department in a very satisfactory manner.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature and the Press.

57. The number of books received and catalogued during the year fell by 22 and the number of newspapers increased by 10. The tone both of books and newspapers which dealt with political subjects showed a marked decrease in violence, but there remained frequent displays of malevolent hostility towards Government, which took the form of persistent and deliberate misrepresentation of the acts of Government and of Government officials. There was a very marked decrease in the registration of seditious books, but pamphlets secretly printed and secretly distributed, were discovered from time to time.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

58. The rock inscription at Duargarila near Gauhati and a number of ancient tombs and monuments were declared to be protected. The temples at Jaysagar in the Sibsagar district, the Bishnudole temple in Kamrup and the mosque at Kusumba in the Rajshahi district were repaired by the Public Works Department. A cannon of the year 1677 A.D., which had been made for the King of Assam of that date, was presented to the State and mounted at Gauhati.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VETERINARY.

Veterinary. 59. The number of Assistants in the Veterinary Department is still considerably below the sanctioned strength, but in spite of this much good work was done. Inoculation was temporarily checked by the failure of the supply of serum, but fortunately the year was a healthy one for cattle. There was a surprising increase in the popularity of veterinary dispensaries.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

PART II.

THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1909-1910.

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ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1909-1910.

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SECTION 6.—Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, Pages 1-98.]

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration.

Changes in the Administration.

1. The outlying Criminal Court at Gopalganj was converted into a new subdivision with effect from 1st November 1909, and the court at Sibchar was then closed.

Two new outlying Criminal Courts were established, one at Shazadpur in the Serajganj subdivision of the Pabna district and the other at Jaydebpur in Dacca district.

The purpose of these outlying courts is to bring the administration of justice nearer to the people in localities which are comparatively remote and inaccessible from the existing district and subdivisional headquarters.

Fifty-three posts were added, with the sanction of the Government of India, to the cadre of the Provincial Civil Service and Subordinate Executive Service to provide for the needs of the Survey and Settlement Departments and for other minor requirements.

During the year, with the sanction of the Government of India, certain coal-bearing areas were included within the administrative borders of the Naga Hills and the Sibsagar districts, and a few border villages hitherto actually administered by the local authorities of the district of Nadia in Bengal, though *de jure* and for revenue purposes belonging to Faridpur in Eastern Bengal and Assam, were formally included in Faridpur for all purposes.

Other minor changes in administration are noticed in the chapters dealing with the departments affected.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Feudatory States.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, pages 99-107.]

SECTION 9.—Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

Feudatory States.

MANIPUR.

[Tribute :—Rs. 50,000 annually. Population (1901) :—284,465. Gross revenue (average for last five years) :—Rs. 4,42,201. Military :—209 military police. Products :—Rice, dal, vegetables, rubber, wax, tea-seed and other forest products, ponies, cattle, and buffaloes. Manufactures :—Cotton cloth, silk cloth, brass and other metal utensils, a few articles of ivory and jewellery, some leather work and coarse salt. Minerals :—Iron, limestone, copper and salt, but iron and copper are not worked.

Raja—His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh, aged 24 years; caste—Kshatriya. The Raja has a son aged about two years by his second wife, Rani Chingakhom Sayama Sakhi, and a daughter by his first wife, Rani Ngangbom Ibemacha.]

General.

2. His Highness the Raja went on pilgrimage to Puri, Hardwar, Dwaraka, and several other places. There was a marked decrease in the number of unlicensed guns confiscated during the year, 59 as against 101 in the previous year and 586 in 1907-1908. This would seem to indicate that the number of unlicensed guns possessed by the hill tribes has greatly decreased.

Hill tribes.

3. The conduct of the hill tribes was generally satisfactory. There was one serious case in the Tangkhul Hills, where one Manipuri was murdered and another severely wounded. Five men of the village concerned were convicted. The Kukis outside the eastern boundary of the State continued to give trouble till a force was sent against them from the Naga Hills to punish outrages committed on that frontier. House-tax was levied at the same rate as in previous years. The total current demand increased from Rs. 62,122 to Rs. 63,573.

Land Revenue.

4. The current land revenue demand for the year was Rs. 3,14,519 as against Rs. 3,09,795 in the previous year, an increase which was due mainly to the resurvey of the Imphal *Panna* in 1908-1909. There was a marked increase in the number of relinquishments, the explanation given being the epidemic of cholera in the year 1908-1909. Collections were fair, being 95·03 of the demand as against 95·45 in the previous year. Arrears outstanding at the end of the year were Rs. 14,902.

Administration of Justice.

5. During the year there were two cases of murder, in both of which the accused were convicted and sentenced to death. Burglary cases showed a decrease, but cattle-lifting was as prevalent as ever. There was a very slight increase in the number of offences reported, 588 as against 584 in 1908-1909, but the number of persons dealt with rose from 1,188 to 1,438. There were 72 appeals, of which 23 were completely successful. The total number of civil suits for disposal, including those pending from the previous year, was 2,842; of these 2,603 were finally disposed of.

Production.

6. The rainfall of the year was considerably below the average of the past ten years but it was evenly distributed, and good rain in July and August saved the paddy crop, which was estimated at 12 annas, from being a failure. The price of food-grains ruled low. The Manipur Company made considerable progress in sericulture, but the proposal to manufacture *ghi* has not yet been put into practice. The experiments in the cultivation of lac proved a failure. A rubber *mahal* was opened this year, and was sold for two seasons for Rs. 800.

Finance.

7. The gross total revenue of the State was Rs. 4,79,164 as against Rs. 4,50,479 in the previous year, every head except Ferries and Forests showing some improvement. There was a large increase under Miscellaneous, which is explained by the fact that two new taxes, an export duty on rice and export and transit duties on cattle, horses and buffaloes, have recently been imposed by the Darbar. These two items alone were responsible for Rs. 11,072.

Medical and Sanitation.

8. During the year a new dispensary was opened at Kakching. The number of operations rose from 303 in 1908-1909 to 435, though there was a decrease in the number of major operations performed during the year under report. A severe epidemic of malarial fever broke out in every part of the State during the month of May, June, and July. The Imphal water-works scheme remained in abeyance pending the preparation of plans and estimates.

Education.

9. There are three Middle English Schools in the State, one being the Ukrul School in the Tangkhul Hills. The number of pupils on the rolls of the Johnstone Middle English School at Imphal rose from 215 to 259. A new Madrasa was opened at Khergao, raising the number of lower primary schools in the Valley to 56. There were only seven lower primary schools in the Tangkhul Hills as against 8 in the previous years. The Technical School has been practically closed as the pupils showed no inclination to do manual work. The results of the school examinations were distinctly satisfactory.

HILL TIPPERA.

[Area:—4,086 square miles. Population (1901)—173,325. Revenue from State:—Rs. 8,44,307; Revenue from zamindari in British territory:—Rs. 8,91,822. Military force:—One regiment of 23 men. Chief products:—Rice and cotton. Present Raja:—His Highness the Bisama-Samara-Bijayi Mahamahodaya Pancha SrijuktaRaja Birendra Kishore Deb Barman Manikya Bahadur, aged 27 years; caste Kshatriya; has male heir; residence Agartala.]

General Administration.

10. The principal event of the year was the installation of Raja Birendra Kishore Manikya and the visit to the State on that occasion of His Honour Sir Lancelot Hare, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam. There was one important change in the administration of the State, Babu Annada Charan Gupta, chief officer of the State, reverting to his substantive post of Deputy Magistrate and Collector, Eastern Bengal and Assam, and Maharaj Kumar Navadwip Chandra Dev Barman being appointed in his place.

11. The gross income of the State was Rs. 9,87,605 as against Rs. 10,08,536 in 1908-1909. The decrease was mainly due to the falling off in receipts under the head "Tax on cotton and oilseed," a fluctuating source of revenue. On the other hand, there was a marked increase under the heads "Toll on forest produce" and "Land Revenue". The income from zamindaris amounted to Rs. 9,25,514. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 21,82,672 as against Rs. 18,69,700. The increase was due to the expenses of the installation ceremonies and to the greatly increased expenditure on account of liquidation of liabilities. There was a closing balance of Rs. 3,71,713. Revenue and finance

12. There was a slight increase in the number of criminal cases for disposal, but a decrease in the number of persons actually brought to trial within the year. The percentage of convictions was 57, a marked improvement on the previous year's figure. There was a slight decrease in the number of civil suits instituted during the year, and a slight increase in the number of disposals. The number of criminal appeals fell from 150 to 139 and of civil appeals from 184 to 154. Both criminal and civil cases were more speedily disposed of than in the previous year. Administration of Justice.

13. There was excessive rainfall in the months of July and August which resulted in floods in the Gumti and Mohuri valleys, but the harvest on the higher lands was excellent. During the rest of the year the rainfall was evenly distributed and the outturn of *aus* paddy in the plains and of *jhum* in the hills was satisfactory. Cotton, mustard and jute did not do particularly well. Public health was exceptionally good. General condition of the people.

14. Three new dispensaries were opened and the total attendance increased by 25,000. Medical.

15. The number of schools rose from 144 to 149, the increase being entirely in lower vernacular schools and *pathsalas*. There is one high school in the State, the Umakanta Academy, which has two branches, at Kailasahar and Bilonia. This institution had 667 students on the rolls as against 638 in the previous year. Out of 15 boys who went up for the supplementary Entrance Examination 9 were successful, while 5 out of 11 passed the last University Matriculation Examination. Education.

Frontier Tribes.

BHUTIAS.

16. Fewer Bhutias came to the fairs at Darranga and Subankhata, but the attendance at Udalguri was particularly good. The Thebengia and Charduar Bhutias received their *posa* at Tezpur and presents were exchanged. Bhutias.

AKAS.

17. The Hazarikhoa and Kapachar Akas came down in February for their *posa* and the usual interchange of presents took place. Akas.

DAFLAS.

18. *Posa* amounting to Rs. 2,547-5 was paid to the Darrang Daflas. A special Darbar of Daflas was held at Itakhola by the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, in February 1910. No Charduar Daflas attended, as they were engaged in pursuing the murderers of two Miris referred to in last year's report. The Daflas of Nauduar raided the camps of two elephant mahaldars on the Inner Line and carried off three prisoners. One prisoner was handed over to the emissaries sent to demand their release. The others were recovered by a small force sent up after the close of the year to punish the offending villages. No complaints were received against the Apa Tanangs. Daflas.

MIRIS.

19. In July 1909 a band of Miris from Sidang Hill raided a Marwari's shop and wounded the Marwari. Takum gam, the leading gam of the plains Miris, was found to be the instigator of the raid. He was arrested, and was then released with directions to go back to the hills, recover the stolen property, and arrest the actual offenders. As the offenders were not given up, a fine of Rs. 300 was imposed on the Gachi Miris. This amount was realized and paid to the Marwari. The conduct of the Panibotia, Tarbotia and Sarak Miris was good throughout the year. Miris.

ABORS.

20. The Doba Abors or Galongs behaved well throughout the year and came in as usual to receive their *posa*. The behaviour of the Pasi Minyongs was also satisfactory. Abors.

The child of an escaped slave woman was forcibly carried away by Bor Abors to Silluk, but was subsequently surrendered. The Assistant Political Officer visited the Padam settlements on the Sisseri in November 1909 and at Sibiya in April 1910. No complaints were made of interference from Padams beyond the Outer Line.

MISHMIS.

Mishmis.

21. The blockade of the Chulikata and Bebejia Mishmis was maintained except in the case of a few selected Chulikata villages who are allowed to trade at Sadiya. The Assistant Political Officer, Sadiya, had an interesting meeting with the Governor of Rima on the borders of Tibet while touring in the Digaru and Miju country.

KHAMTIS AND SINGPHOS.

Khamtis and Singphos.

22. The Khamtis and Singphos gave no trouble. It was reported that a large body of Chinese had crossed into Khamti Long with the intention of settling there. Enquiries were made from the Raja of Mause, who reported that no Chinese had entered Khamti Long, but that some had settled on the site of an abandoned hill Khamti village at a place called Tulu Temai and were cultivating there.

NAGAS.

Nagas.

23. The Margherita Nagas, Yoglis and Rangpangs behaved well throughout the year, as did the Joypur Nagas, Borduarias, Namsangyas and Bor-Methunias. Large numbers of men from these four last named tribes came to work on tea gardens.

In the sadar subdivision of Sibsagar the Nagas of Lakma and Moniting villages, which have recently been included in the Naga Hills district, offered resistance to the demarcation by the Forest Department of the Abhoypur Reserve, but withdrew their opposition when the boundaries of their lands were pointed out to them.

During the year under report effect was given to the orders of the Government of India to throw back the Inner Line for a distance of about three miles between the Dilli and the Teok rivers.

NAGA HILLS.

Naga Hills.

24. The Deputy Commissioner of the Naga Hills made two expeditions against the village of Mozungjami and the Aishan Kukis; both terminated satisfactorily. The former paid up the fine imposed, while the Kukis were disarmed and over 100 guns were collected. The Subdivisional Officer, Mokokchang, crossed the Dikhu and proclaimed the assumption by Government of the area recently added to the Naga Hills. Numerous raids with head-taking were reported, but the relations of the independent trans-frontier tribes with Government continued to be satisfactory.

GARO HILLS.

Garo Hills.

25. The political situation continued to improve and no progress was reported in the collection of subscriptions for the litigation fund in connection with the claim to the Habraghat pargana. An enquiry was held by the Deputy Commissioner and the Forest Officer into the alleged grievances of the Garos in respect of forest administration with the result that concessions were made after the close of the year. The boundary between the Habraghat pargana and the Garo Hills was completed and the demarcation was tested by the Deputy Commissioners of the Goalpara and Garo Hills districts.

LUSHAI HILLS.

Lushai Hills.

26. Politically the year was uneventful, but the indefinite nature of the southern boundary led to friction between one of the southern chiefs and some villagers in unadministered territory.

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

[Consisting of the Jaintia Hills and twenty-five Khasi States :—Bhowal, Cherra, Shella, Khyrim Mylliem, Langrin, Maharam, Mawiang, Maosanram, Malaisohmat, Mariaw, Nobosohphoh, Nongkhlaw Nongspung, Nongstoin, Rambrai, Jirang, Dwara Nongtyrmen, Maodon, Mawlong, Pomsangut Langiong, Mauphlang, Nonglwai and Sohiong. Total population, 202,250.]

Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

27. The conduct of the Siems was generally good, but numerous complaints were received against the Siem of Maharam. The boundary dispute between the States of Khyrim and Mylliem at one time reached an acute stage; the Deputy Commissioner however took up the enquiry and demarcated the boundary from the borders of the Kamrup district as far as Mawbari; the rest of the boundary will be settled subsequently. The Siem of Khyrim continued to have trouble with some of the villages on the Sylhet border. U Babin, Sardar of the Mawlong confederacy, died in August

1909, and pending the election of a successor the administration of the State was carried on by the two surviving Sardars. The Doloi of Maskut, U Ted Tyngkra, was removed, as several complaints, to which he failed to make any reply, were made against him.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the people.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1909-1910.]

Condition of the people.

28. There was a noticeable decline in the prices of food-grains in almost all districts, but the effects of this were slightly checked by the necessity felt by all classes for replenishing their stocks which were greatly reduced by the high prices and scarcity of the preceding three years. There was a slight, but perceptible, increase in the wages of daily labour. In spite of the reduction in the price of jute the year was on the whole a favourable one for the peasant and middle classes. In the Rajshahi Division the effects of the scarcity of the previous year were to a large extent obliterated. The diminished profits of the cultivators entailed by the fall in prices were more than compensated for by the excellent outturn of the crops. Public health on the whole was good, though there was high mortality from fever in some districts, and in the Rajshahi Division a good many deaths were caused by an epidemic of cholera and small-pox. There was an outbreak of pneumonic plague in Noakhali to which 45 persons succumbed, but it was rapidly stamped out by the local officers. Seasoned immigrants continued to pass from labour on tea gardens to cultivation in the waste lands surrounding them, thus materially assisting in the colonisation and development of the Assam Valley.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

SECTION 1.—Realisation of the Revenue.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909-1910.]

29. An account of the total demand and collection of Land Revenue will be found under Chapter V.—"Revenue and Finance."

Area and Revenue.

30. There was an increase of about 151 square miles in the total revenue-paying area in 1909-1910 with a corresponding increase of Rs. 2,55,604 in the revenue demand, including Rs. 67,700 on account of the quit-rent of the Cooch Behar State which was transferred from Miscellaneous Land Revenue to Land Revenue proper. The increase both in revenue and area was mainly contributed by the Assam districts. The incidence of revenue per square mile was Rs. 394·65 as against Rs. 390·62 in the previous year.

Permanently-settled Estates.

31. The number of permanently-settled estates in the province increased by 32, chiefly owing to partitions, but the revenue derived from them decreased by Rs. 461 as a result of transfers from one class to another and abatements granted for land acquired for public purposes. Of the total area, 32,979 square miles comprised in 67,101 estates lie in Eastern Bengal, while 6,140 square miles constituting 49,901 estates lie in Assam. A sum of Rs. 98,52,708 representing 98·76 per cent. of the total demand, was collected during the year, against 98·32 per cent. collected in the previous year.

Temporarily settled estates.

32. In Eastern Bengal there were 1,434 estates settled temporarily with proprietors or farmers covering an area of 909,279 acres and yielding a revenue of Rs. 7,88,225. The total collections amounted to Rs. 7,53,203 or 90·87 per cent. of the total demand, against 94·91 per cent. collected in the previous year. In Assam the total area settled at full rates for ordinary cultivation rose to 2,644,098 acres with a revenue assessment of Rs. 53,21,952, an increase of 3·05 per cent. and 2·1 per cent. in area and revenue respectively. The area settled with *ex*-garden coolies rose from 138,239 to 147,019 acres, or by 6·3 per cent., while that settled with other immigrants rose by 28·9 per cent. The total demand from temporarily-settled estates in Assam amounted to Rs. 66,40,798 of which 97·04 per cent. was collected against 94·95 in the previous year. In six out of the eight plains districts of Assam the realisations amounted to more than 99½ per cent. of the current demand.

Hill Districts.

33. In the Hill districts there were 11,632 estates with a total revenue demand of Rs. 47,176 as compared with 10,544 and Rs. 44,388 respectively in the previous year. The total collections rose from Rs. 40,877 in the preceding year to Rs. 43,770.

Remittances of revenue and rent by money orders.

34. There was an increase of 4,264 in revenue money orders, but the amount of land revenue and cesses remitted decreased by Rs. 20,800. The number of money orders issued for the payment of rent, and the amount for which they were issued decreased by 9·94 per cent. and 5·41 per cent. respectively; the percentage of refusals on the other hand showed a further decrease.

Coercive measures: (a) Eastern Bengal.

35. The number of estates and shares of estates in Eastern Bengal which became liable for sale for non-payment of Government revenue rose from 5,583 to 5,621 and the percentage of sales to defaults was 8·82. The number of certificates issued was 38,285 and the percentage of disposals 77·5. The demands were satisfied for the most part on issue of notices and on attachment of property, actual sale being rarely necessary. In the Chittagong district 6 persons were imprisoned for the realisation of Government demands. Four of these served their terms without paying their dues.

(b) Assam.

36. The total number of estates against which notices of demand were issued under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation rose from 5·13 per cent. to 6·08 per cent. There was a decrease in the attachment of, but an increase in the number of sales of, moveable property. On the whole, coercive measures were resorted to more freely than in the preceding 4 years.

Miscellaneous Land Revenue.

37. The receipts under the head of Miscellaneous Land Revenue are mainly derived from fisheries, minerals, poll-tax, house-tax, partition fees and the recovery of survey and settlement charges. The total collections for the Province amounted to Rs. 6,21,462 against Rs. 5,87,214 in the previous year. There was a large reduction in the balance (Rs. 59,221) remaining outstanding at the close of the year owing to the gradual recovery of arrears of survey and settlement costs from landlords and tenants

in Bakarganj. A sum of Rs. 2,021 was remitted during the year as against Rs. 3,746 in the preceding year. Rupees 64,114 were collected in advance on account of sums due in future years. In the hill districts the total demand for the year was Rs. 2,18,240 and the total collections amounted to Rs. 2,13,127 as compared with Rs. 2,08,997 and Rs. 2,01,866 in the previous year.

Land Registration: (a) Eastern Bengal.

38. The number of applications filed for registration under Act VII (B.C.) of 1876 increased from 26,004 to 27,491, and the percentage of disposals was 82·9. The actual number of applications granted during the year amounted to 27,652 or 4·1 per cent. of the total number of interests registered.

(b) Assam.

39. The number of land registration cases in Assam disposed of locally by summary procedure under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation rose from 27,331 to 33,223. The increase occurred in all districts except Sylhet, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur. The percentage of cases disposed of in court and locally on the total number of estates liable to mutation was 6·93 against 6·17 in the previous year.

Partitions.

40. In Eastern Bengal there were 26 partition cases instituted during the year against 153 in the preceding year. The number of disposals fell from 47 to 33, leaving 146 cases pending at the close of the year. In Assam there was a slight increase in the number of applications for partition in the Surma Valley and a slight decrease in the Assam Valley. The percentage of disposals rose from 46 to 52.

Land Acquisition.

41. Proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act in respect of 1,729 acres were confirmed by the Board during the year. This is the highest figure since the formation of the Province, the increase being due chiefly to the new Civil Station and other projects in the town of Dacca. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 8,81,852, of which over 7 lakhs was on account of Government, about a lakh on account of Railways and about half a lakh on account of District and Local Boards. The average cost per acre was Rs. 510 against Rs. 281 in the preceding year. Besides the above, 1,694 acres were acquired for temporary occupation at a cost of Rs. 14,918.

Loans.

42. Loans amounting to Rs. 8,700 only were advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act. Of the total debit of Rs. 57,373 only Rs. 16,596 were repayable during the year, of which Rs. 14,020 were realised. Of Rs. 4,330 due on account of interest Rs. 3,675 were realised; and a sum of Rs. 66 was suspended. Under the Agriculturists Loans Act Rs. 1,79,705 were advanced against Rs. 4,84,689 in 1908-1909. Including the outstanding balance of the previous year the total debit was Rs. 9,17,433, of which sum Rs. 4,45,858 fell due within the year. Actual collections amounted to Rs. 2,12,686, Rs. 441 were remitted as irrecoverable and Rs. 25,336 were suspended. Of Rs. 57,426 due on account of interest, Rs. 31,341 were collected and Rs. 50 remitted while Rs. 3,313 of the balance were suspended.

SECTION 2.—Surveys and Settlements.

[*See* Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1910].

Traverse Survey.

43. The traverse of the Jalpaiguri district was completed; the area of 559 square miles dealt with included 107 square miles of pargana Patgram which lie actually within the periphery of the Cooch Behar State in one large block of 93 square miles and 15 scattered taluks within a radius of about 6 miles from the main block. The Revenue Survey villages can hardly be said to exist and their place is taken by a different unit, the taluk; the demarcation of boundaries was in consequence very difficult. In Mymensingh the programme of 852 square miles was carried out. In the Dacca uplands the first block of the district proper (542 square miles) was completed, while in the deara of the river Meghna between the Dacca and Tippera districts 127 square miles were also traversed, of which about one-third consisted of water: as was expected great changes were found to have occurred since the Revenue Survey. The Lakhimpur programme, amounting to 89 square miles, was successfully carried out. The relaying of 60 miles of the Goalpara-Kamrup district boundary was completed and two important demarcations in the interior of the former district were finished as regards the actual traverse work. A 16″=1 mile survey of the new civil station at Dacca was executed, and progress made with the preparation of a survey on the 6-inch scale for the area falling within a five-mile radius from the station. A most important piece of work was the preparation of accurate comparative maps of the dearas between the Dacca and Faridpur districts showing both the boundaries found in the recent cadastral operations and also those of the original Revenue Survey.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Cadastral Survey and Settlement, (a) Eastern Bengal.

44. Three parties under special officers and financed from Imperial Revenues were at work during the year and in seven other districts there were minor operations under the control of the Collectors.

Bakarganj and Faridpur.

45. In Bakarganj, operations were virtually closed and the final report is under preparation. Judicial work was completed with the exception of 7 appeals pending before the special Judge and the recovery of cost, was also nearly finished, over 98 per cent. of the assessment having been realised. In Faridpur, draft publication was completed in the last block of the district proper and in the riparian zones of Pabna and Tippera, while in the similar zone in Dacca work was carried up to the stage of attestation and was then transferred to the Settlement officer appointed for Dacca at the close of the year; 14,739 objections under section 103-A of the Bengal Tenancy Act were disposed of and good progress made with the work of final scrutiny.

Mymensingh.

46. Cadastral survey, preparation and preliminary explanation of the record in the second block of 867 square miles were completed, the services of locally trained patwaris being again largely utilised. Attestation and draft publication and disposal of objections in the first block (847 square miles) were also practically finished. Certain misapprehensions having arisen among the villagers, a proclamation was widely distributed explaining the meaning of each stage of the operations.

Jalpaiguri.

47. Cadastral survey of 880 square miles and preparation and preliminary explanation of the record in 430 square miles in the third block, the remainder being tea-gardens or reserved forests, and attestation and draft publication in the second block were successfully carried out and only 8 objections under section 103-A of the Bengal Tenancy Act were left outstanding. Standard rates for the new assessments in the Bhotepati Group of the Western Duars were determined and orders were issued to secure suitable demarcation of jotes and waste land leases. Arrangements were also made to supply managers of tea-gardens with 16″=1 mile garden maps showing salient features only at a cost of 2 annas per acre.

Collectorate Settlement.

48. A heavy programme in both private and Government estates was carried out in Noakhali and minor operations were also in progress in Tippera, Dinajpur, Malda, Pabna, Bogra and Rajshahi.

(b) Assam.

49. The final report of the Nowgong settlement was received and forwarded to the Government of India and that for Darrang is under preparation. In Lakhimpur, the record attestation of the first block, 471 villages, was carried out completely and correction of the map and records and soil classification were finished in 614 out of the 663 villages of the second block, each raiyat receiving a *patta* showing the area and boundaries of his field and the proposed classification. An important change in procedure was introduced, the map and record being verified from field to field by an Assistant Settlement Officer or Kanungo, and each raiyat's *patta* then attested in his presence by the Assistant Settlement Officer. In Cachar, 65 Jungalbari mehals were re-settled, and in Sylhet 1,377 estates, measuring 14 square miles in all, were under re-settlement.

General.

50. Two important experiments were introduced in the Eastern Bengal settlements, the Settlement Officers being entrusted with the work of cess re-valuation and the preliminary stages of estates partition work.

SECTION 3.—Land Records.

[*See* Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1910.]

Land Records.

51. In Eastern Bengal there was virtually no alteration as regards the practical maintenance of the record and except in the Government Estates of Bogra there is no real village agency. A scheme for the maintenance of the record was prepared, based on the old Regulations, still in force. It was founded on a system of circle officers, subcircle kanungos and village patwaris, but apart from the difficulty of securing funds it is doubtful whether it meets with the approval of the landlords. In Assam the record continued to be maintained by the special staff of mandals (village recorders). Selected mauzadars were vested with the powers of Assistant Settlement Officers to dispose of uncontested mutation cases by summary procedure. Rules were laid down for the preservation of mandals' *chithas*, and the appointment, promotion and punishment of kanungos and mandals were vested in Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners.

SECTION 4.—Settlements for Special Cultivation (Waste Lands).

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909-1910.]

Settlements for special cultivation.

52. The total area settled under the rules for special cultivation in Assam amounted to 1,174,226 acres with a revenue demand of Rs. 7,24,978, showing an increase of 6,456 acres in area and Rs. 2,619 in revenue. In Eastern Bengal the only "special cultivation" is that of tea in the Jalpaiguri district. The total area is 242,234 acres with a revenue demand of Rs 2,03,682. No cotton or rubber was grown on the areas settled for that purpose in Chittagong. In the Assam and Surma Valleys 50 new applications for settlement were filed, and out of a total of 124 cases for disposal orders were passed in 61. In Jalpaiguri there were 6 new applications and 5 pending from the previous years. Six of these were disposed of. In Chittagong 299 acres were settled for castor cultivation.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909-1910.]

Government Estates.

53. The total number of estates in Eastern Bengal under direct management during the year was 1,590, the current demand being Rs. 23,53,811. The figures for the previous year were 1,572 and 22,87,844, respectively. There was no change in the agency or in the method of management of these estates. The scheme for the reorganisation of the tahsil staff in the district of Bakarganj was sanctioned but not brought into operation. A sum of Rs. 2,99,122 was sanctioned by Government for expenditure during the year on management and improvements. The cost of management, including the cost of collection, amounted to 7·0 per cent. of the current demand of the estates. The cost of miscellaneous and sanitary improvements amounted to 1·3 and ·5 per cent., respectively., of the current demand. The most important operation in progress in Government estates was the colonisation work in the Bakarganj Sundarbans. During the year 296 colonists were settled on 3,375 acres of land, Rs. 60,970 were spent on improvements and settlers were granted land improvement and agricultural loans amounting to Rs. 16,050. The number of schools in Government estates varied during the year. There was a falling off in the Dacca Division but an increase in the Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions.

SECTION 6.—Wards' and Attached Estates.

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Wards', Attached and Trust Estates in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909-1910.]

Revenue, Rent and Cesses due to Government and superior landlords.

54. Two new estates were taken under management by the Court during the year and three released, the total number under the Court at the close of the year being 47. The total amount of the revenue and cesses, including an arrear demand of Rs. 97,014, due to Government was Rs. 9,18,801. Payments amounted to Rs. 8,63,732, or 94 per cent. of the demand, as compared with 90·43 per cent. in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 55,347, almost the whole of which was due from estates in the district of Bakarganj. The payment on account of rents and cesses to superior landlords amounted to less than 63 per cent. of the total demand, the unpaid balance at the close of the year being Rs. 2,39,564 for which the estates in Bakarganj were mainly responsible.

Rent and cesses due to the estates.

55. The demand for rent and cesses due to the estates under management amounted to Rs. 56,29,126, including an arrear demand of Rs. 30,19,511. Collections amounted to Rs. 27,67,341, or 106 per cent. of the current demand against 101 per cent. in the previous year. This improvement was mostly confined to the Rajshahi Division, collections in the Dacca Division showing a marked falling off. The results secured by the issue of certificates were poor in almost all estates, the percentage of recoveries on the total claim falling from 52·8 to 38·06. The total number of civil suits filed was 2,078; out of Rs. 83,643 decreed Rs. 49,669 were actually recovered.

Debts.

56. The total amount of debts, excluding revenue, rent and cesses, due from estates at the close of the year was Rs. 56,72,294, out of which the Bakarganj estates alone were responsible for Rs. 34,71,476. During the year debts amounting to Rs. 10,46,457 were paid off, the money required being obtained in many cases either by the sale of property or from loans contracted on more favourable terms.

Management charges.

57. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 12·5 per cent. against 12·8 per cent. in the preceding year.

Schools, dispensaries and improvements.

58. The heavy embarrassments of most of the estates in the Dacca Division prevented any considerable outlay on schools, dispensaries and improvements. In the Tippera district the Kasim Bazar estate spent Rs. 17,576 on improvements, and in the Rajshahi Division four or five estates spent appreciable sums under this head.

SECTION 7.—Revenue and rent-paying classes.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909-1910.]

Relations between landlords and tenants.

59. Both landlords and tenants continued to become better acquainted with the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, chiefly through the instrumentality of survey and settlement proceedings, the records of which are year by year being used more freely. The improvement, however, was only comparative and owing to their ignorance of their own rights the tenantry in many districts still suffered from illegal exactions and illegal methods employed by landlords and their agents. The provisions prescribing the grant of formal receipts for rent continued to be neglected, but fines were imposed for neglect of these provisions, and Settlement Officers of districts under survey and settlement operations, Subdivisional Officers and the senior Deputy Collectors at district headquarters in Eastern Bengal were vested with the powers of a Collector under section 58 of the Act. The High Court also issued a general order impressing on all Subordinate Civil Courts the duty of reporting to Collectors cases of evasion of the Act.

Working of the Tenancy Act under Revenue Officers.

60. The number of transfers by voluntary sale showed a decrease, which is ascribed to the general improvement in the condition of tenants, and to the lower price of food-grains. The number of transfers by succession decreased, except in Noakhali, where the increase is attributed to improvement in registration. The percentage of landlords' fees claimed and paid over to landlords was 10·61 as against 8·6 in the preceding two years. The improvement is ascribed to the introduction of the system of transmitting such fees by money order whenever possible. There were only 21 cases of commutation of rent payable in kind, and only 50 applications for registration of improvements against 108 in the previous year. There was a notable increase in the number of notices of re-entry upon land issued by landlords.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—Legislating Authority.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, pages 119-120.]

SECTION 2.—Course of Legislation.

Regulations under Indian Councils Act.

61. The Regulations framed for Eastern Bengal and Assam under the Indian Councils Act, 1909 (9 Edw. VII, C. 4) were published and came into force on the 15th November 1909. The Regulations provide for a maximum number of 42 members against 15 of the old Council. Eighteen of the Councillors are elected as follows:—

(i) By the Commissioners of the Port of Chittagong	1 member.
(ii) By Municipal Commissioners	3 members.
(iii) By District and Local Boards	5 members.
(iv) By Land-holders	2 members.
(v) By the Muhammadan community	4 members.
(vi) By the Tea interest	2 members.
(vii) By the Jute interest	1 member.

The remaining members are nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor subject to certain reservations, the most important of which is that a majority of the members of the Council may not be officials. Rules have also been framed under the new Act extending the powers of the Council to discuss the annual financial statement and matters of general public interest.

Under the new Regulations for the Council of the Governor General 3 of the elected additional members of the Council are returned by electorates in Eastern Bengal and Assam.

The first meeting of the new Council of Eastern Bengal and Assam was held on the 4th January 1910.

Acts and Bills.

62. The Eastern Bengal and Assam General Clauses Bill of 1908, which had received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor and that of the Governor General in Council in 1909, was passed into law as Act I of 1909. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Excise Bill, which had been introduced in Council in 1909, received the assent of the Lieuttenant-Governor on April 6th, 1910 and that of the Governor General in Council on the 19th May and was passed into law as Act I of 1910.

The sanction of the Government of India to the introduction of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Court of Wards Amendment Bill into the Council was received after the close of the year.

The following Acts were extended during 1909 to the places noted against each:—

(1) Act II (B.C.) of 1867 (Gambling), Sections 1 and 2, extended to Shambhuganj *hat* and its neighbourhood in Mymensingh.

(2) Act III (B.C.) of 1884 (Municipalities), Parts VI, VII and IX, to certain portions of the Mymensingh Municipality.

(3) Act II (E. B. & A.) of 1907 (Disorderly Houses), to Goalundo in the Faridpur district, and to Nilphamari in the Rangpur district.

(4) Act III (B.C.) of 1884 (Municipalities), Part IX, to the Jorhat Municipality in the district of Sibsagar.

SECTION.—3 Police.

[*See* Report on the Police Administration of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

MILITARY POLICE.

Strength.

63. The total sanctioned strength of the Military Police was raised during the year to 3,022 of all ranks by the addition of 130 native officers and men to the Dacca Battalion. But there were 149 vacancies at the close of the year.

Efficiency.

64. In general efficiency, discipline, shooting and signalling the force maintained its reputation, but the employment of so many men on outpost and guard duties and the deputation of several detachments to the Eastern Bengal districts rendered it

PROTECTION.

difficult to attain a high standard of efficiency in drill. The strengthening of the Dacca Battalion and the reduction of the requirements for outpost duty in Lakhimpur will, to some extent, remedy this defect.

Casualties. 65. There were 49 resignations as against 46 in the preceding year, the Naga Hills Battalion being responsible for this increase. On the other hand, there was only one desertion as against three in 1908. Dismissals increased by 8.

Health. 66. Though there was an increase in the percentage of admissions to hospital, the number of deaths fell from 45 to 37.

Military operations. 67. A force of 2 native officers and 100 men of the Naga Hills Battalion was sent to the village of Mozungjami to realize a fine which had been imposed on the village for misconduct. The expedition was brief and entirely successful; no resistance was offered and there were no casualties.

Miscellaneous extra duties. 68. The Lushai Hills Battalion furnished detachments at Dacca and Barisal. A guard from the Garo Hills police was sent to attend His Excellency the Viceroy's camp at Lohapara, while a detachment of the same battalion went to Dacca to relieve the Lushai Hills detachment there. Parties from the Dacca, Silchar and Garo Hills Battalions went to Agartala to serve as a guard to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the occasion of the installation ceremony of His Highness the Raja of Hill Tippera.

CIVIL POLICE.

Strength. 69. The total sanctioned strength of the civil police force in the year under review was 10,897. The actual strength was 10,713 including 38 supernumerary Sub-Inspectors. Besides the 4 Superintendents of Police from other provinces, whose services were lent last year, two officers of the Provincial Civil Service were placed on special duty to perform the duties of a Superintendent of Police. Three Military officers and two Inspectors of Police from other provinces were appointed Assistant Superintendents of Police, and four probationary Assistant Superintendents were recruited from England.

Armed reserve. 70. The strength of the armed reserve in Chittagong was increased by 4 head constables and 50 constables, and 5 constables were added in Malda. The discipline was generally good. Owing to the inadequacy of the ordinary reserve, the armed reserve was employed far too frequently on escort and other miscellaneous duties.

Ordinary reserve. 71. In nearly all districts the ordinary reserve proved quite inadequate, mainly owing to the difficulty experienced in getting suitable recruits and to the fact that recruits are now sent to the training schools for 6 months and cannot be used, as formerly, before the 6 months' training is complete.

Recruitment. 72. There was a decided falling off in the number of recruits enlisted during the year, but the most serious feature was the difficulty experienced in getting local men. Whereas in 1907, 782 local recruits were enlisted, and in 1908, 542, in the present year only 481 were forthcoming.

Casualties and health. 73. The total number of casualties fell from 924 in 1908 to 876 in the present year. The decrease occurred under all heads except discharge. The health statistics showed an improvement over those of 1908; there were fewer admissions to hospital and fewer deaths, but the percentage of admissions to hospital continued to be very high.

Railway Police. 74. Crime on railways showed a very satisfactory tendency to diminish. In consequence of the precautionary measures taken, running-train thefts on the Chittagong Port line and crime at the jetties almost entirely ceased. Nine hundred and thirty-nine cases were reported to the Railway police; 317 cases were decided and of these 263 resulted in conviction, or 82·9 per cent. as compared with 80·6 per cent. last year.

River Police. 75. Though sanction was given for the recruitment of 100 constables for the River Police only ten were actually recruited, the pay offered not proving a sufficient inducement. To protect remittances made in connection with the jute trade to outlying centres, a force of 115 officers and men were employed on guard and patrol duty. No dacoity was reported from within the area covered by the operations of this force.

Constables' Training Schools. 76. On the 1st of April 1909 a second Constables' Training School was established at Rampur-Boalia to which 341 recruits were admitted.

Conduct of the force. 77. The conduct of the force was on the whole satisfactory. Under what difficulties the police worked is abundantly shown by the increasing number of charges

brought against them, very few of which were substantiated, while the majority were declared to be maliciously false.

Rural Police.

78. The work of the rural police was not very satisfactory and a large number of chaukidars were punished both judicially and otherwise for neglect of duty. In districts in which Presidents of Unions had been appointed there was a tendency for both Presidents and chaukidars to ignore the regular police.

Finance.

79. There was an increase of nearly three lakhs of rupees in the cost of the Department. Payment for the whole year of the salaries of the ministerial staff at the higher rates sanctioned by Government, payment of a bonus of one week's pay on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the construction of two steam launches were the chief factors contributing to the increase.

Crime.

80. There was a decrease of 2,154 cases reported to the police during the year—54,463 as against 56,617. Of the cases reported, 73·6 per cent. were investigated and of the cases investigated 16,128 or 40·2 per cent. were sent up for trial as against 39·8 per cent. last year. Of cases sent up for trial by the police, 83·6 per cent. ended in conviction, practically the same result as in 1908-09. There was an increase of 70 in the number of cases committed to the Court of Sessions, 905 as against 835, but the percentage of cases resulting in conviction fell from 70·8 in 1908 to 67·2. There was a net increase of 45 in the number of serious offences against the person, including a regrettable rise of 35 in the number of murders. It is satisfactory to note that the number of true rioting cases fell from 925 to 823. There were, however, no less than seven riots in the Sylhet district which terminated fatally.

False cases.

81. One thousand four hundred and forty-nine cases were declared by Magistrates to be maliciously false. In 168 cases only were prosecutions undertaken and in 67 of these were convictions obtained. There has been a steady decrease in the number of such prosecutions during the last three years. In 89 cases as against 74 in 1908-09 use was made of section 250, Criminal Procedure Code.

Criminal Investigation Department.

82. The officers of the Criminal Investigation Department were fully employed during the year and prosecutions were instituted against several gangs of dangerous criminals. Dacoities and murders committed by youths belonging to the middle classes also occupied much of their time.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice.

Plains Districts.

[*See* Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1909; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Judicial staff.

83. Thirteen Sessions Judges and three Additional Sessions Judges were employed throughout the year. In addition to the permanent staff a second Additional Sessions Judge was temporarily employed at Mymensingh, and a Subordinate Judge, vested with an Assistant Sessions Judge's powers, was employed at Dacca.

The Magisterial staff consisted of 232 Stipendiary and 304 Honorary Magistrates, an increase of one and a decrease of 18 respectively on the numbers of the previous year. Seven Special Magistrates, appointed under section 14, Code of Criminal Procedure, were employed, 4 at Lakhimpur and the other three at Hatiya (Noakhali), Jalpaiguri and Nowgong, respectively.

Offences reported.

84. There were 131,406 criminal offences reported, a decrease of 1,917 on the figures of 1908.

Results of Inquiry.

85. Including the cases pending inquiry at the close of 1908, the number of cases found false, or in which complaints were dismissed, was 44,447—33·8 per cent. of the number reported. Eighty-seven thousand and forty-one cases were found true, and of these 61,056 were brought to trial, an increase of 647 over the figures of 1908.

Original Jurisdiction.

I.—Magistrates' Courts

Cases disposed of.

86. During the year 61,066 cases were brought to trial and 61,231 disposed of, 3,003 remaining pending. The number of cases brought to trial was 655 more than in 1908. The increase was mainly in offences affecting the human body, and under Local and Special Laws. Of the total number of cases 897 were committed or referred to the Sessions and 60,334 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In the latter class of cases 45·3 of the persons accused were convicted as against 46·1 in 1908 and 47·1 in 1907. The number of disposals by District Magistrates showed a marked increase and is

probably in part due to the appointment of Additional Magistrates in some of the larger districts. The number of persons awaiting trial at the close of 1909 was 5,470 as compared with 5,978 in 1908.

Punishments.

87. The sentences passed were as follows:—

Imprisonment	Rigorous	...	10,652
	Simple	...	448
Fine	With imprisonment	...	1,711
	Without imprisonment	...	24,981
Whipping	Sole punishment	...	200
	Additional punishment	...	33

In addition to substantive punishments 5,635 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, a decrease of 1,414 as compared with the number in 1908.

The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 3,52,981 in all; Rs. 3,14,213 were realized during the year, and Rs. 58,594 paid as compensation to complainants out of fines.

In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by Magistrates during the year:—

Miscellaneous proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

88. There were 2,851 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Code of Criminal Procedure, to prevent a breach of the peace, 10,976 persons being involved. These figures are less by 340 and 1,349, respectively, than the abnormal figures of 1908. Of the persons concerned 4,348 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace in addition to those mentioned above who were similarly bound down on conviction.

In 841 cases 2,143 persons were called on to show cause why they should not give security for good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 1,561. Of these 1,327 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default.

Proceedings for abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 475 cases and in the cases of 294 persons reference was made to a jury. The number of cases as to possession of land decided under Chapter XII of the Code by Magistrates was 900, a decrease of 186 on the figures of 1908.

Three hundred and fifty-two complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons under section 250 of the Code. Orders for maintenance were made against 167 persons.

Witnesses.

89. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates was 240,782 as compared with 235,775 in 1908. Of the total number who attended Court to give evidence 29 per cent. were discharged without examination. Of the remainder 74·9 per cent. were discharged on the first day, 18·5 per cent. on the second, 5·2 per cent. on the third and 1·4 per cent. after the third day. There was an increase of 1,096 in the number of witnesses detained more than three days; this is accounted for by the considerable increase in the number of witnesses in attendance.

II.—Courts of Sessions.

Commitments, etc.

90. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 897, and the number disposed of, including pending cases of 1908, was 881, showing an increase of 78 and 69, respectively, over the figures for 1908. There were 165 cases pending at the close of the year.

There were 2,221 persons under trial during the year, 216 more than in 1908. The cases of 1,947 persons were decided and 250 remained under trial at the close of the year. In the cases tried 1,103 persons were convicted (56·6 per cent. as against 59·9 per cent. in 1908), 775 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 69 persons were referred to the High Court.

Punishments.

91. The following sentences were passed:—

Death		30
Transportation	For life	77
	For a term of years	16
Imprisonment	Rigorous	890
	Simple	6
Fine		33
Whipping		4

Besides the above 98 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, 12 for terms not exceeding one year, 86 for terms between one year and three years.

Fines to the amount of Rs 4,985 were imposed, an increase of Rs. 660 over the previous year. The total realizations amounted to Rs. 1,044.

92. The number of persons tried by jury during 1909 was 653. In respect of 588 the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury, in respect of 65 he disapproved. In the cases of 39 the Sessions Judge so entirely disagreed with the verdict as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to refer to the High Court under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given below under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision." Jury trials.

93. The number of persons tried with the aid of Assessors during the year was 1,060. In the cases of 742 persons the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the Assessors. In the cases of 162 he differed from the opinion of one, and in the cases of 156 from that of both. The corresponding figures for 1908 were 867, 596, 141 and 127, respectively. Trials by Assessors.

94. The average duration of Sessions trials from the date of commitment to that of decision was 40·9 days, as against 39·9 in 1908. This slight increase is accounted for by the increased number of witnesses examined. The delay in cases was notably high in the district of Cachar (91·6 days) where the existing arrangement, by which the Sessions Judge of Sylhet is required to do the Sessions work of Cachar, renders the disposal of cases difficult. The High Court have made proposals to the Local Government for the reinforcement of the cadre of District and Sessions Judges in the province. Duration of cases.

95. The number of witnesses in attendance was 17,667, of whom 9,531 were examined. The figures for 1908 were 15,682 and 8,754, respectively. Of the total number in attendance, 44·6 per cent. were discharged on the first day, 22·2 per cent. on the second day, 14·3 per cent. on the third day and 11·9 per cent. after the third day. The results show a further satisfactory improvement on those of 1908. Witnesses.

III.—High Court, Special Bench.

96. Three cases involving seven persons were committed by the Additional and District Magistrates of Mymensingh and Dacca, respectively, to the High Court for trial by Special Benches under Act XIV of 1908. In one case four persons were brought to trial and acquitted. The charges in the remaining two cases were withdrawn by Government under section 494, Criminal Procedure Code. In these cases 61 witnesses were examined and the average duration of each case was 78 days from the date of commitment.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

97. At the beginning of 1909 there were 20 appeals pending from the sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year 434 appeals were preferred and 433 decided—that is, 64 and 63 more, respectively, than in 1908. Appeals before the High Court.

There were 427 appeals against sentences of the Court of Sessions. In 359 cases the orders of the Lower Courts were upheld, in 25 reversed and in 41 modified. Two cases were remanded for re-trial.

There were four appeals against the orders of District Magistrates; two were dismissed, in the other two the original orders were modified.

Of two appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal, one was withdrawn and in the other one accused, out of three, was convicted and fined.

The percentage of appellants whose appeals were entirely unsuccessful was 79·9, as against 84·3 in 1908.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

98. There were 123 appeals pending, 2,880 (8 more than in 1908) were preferred, and 4 received on remand from the High Court. Of these 2,872 were decided, leaving 134 pending. In those decided 4,689 persons were concerned, 2,948 of whom were unsuccessful, 699 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence, and 932 were acquitted. In the case of 109 appellants a new trial or further enquiry was ordered and the case of one appellant was referred to the High Court for orders. The proportions of persons who were wholly unsuccessful, obtained a modification, and obtained a reversal, were 62·8, 14·9 and 19·8, respectively, a result on the whole slightly more favourable to appellants than that of the previous year. Sessions Courts.

Magistrates' Courts.

99. There were 124 appeals pending, and 2,134 (240 less than in 1908) were preferred. Of these 2,134 were decided and 122 left pending, two appeals being transferred for hearing to another district. The number of persons whose appeals were decided was 3,520. Of these 65·3 per cent. were wholly unsuccessful, 12·6 per cent. obtained a modification, and 21·5 per cent. an annulment of sentence. In the case of 17 appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. These results are slightly less favourable to appellants than those of 1908.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under Section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

100. Twenty-seven references from the verdicts of juries were decided during the year, the verdict of the jury being accepted in 6 cases, modified in 2 and set aside in 19.

References under Section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

101. Twenty-three references for confirmation of death sentences were decided during 1909, in which 29 persons were concerned. The death sentence on 14 was confirmed; in 8 instances it was commuted to transportation for life; in one a sentence of 7 years' rigorous imprisonment was substituted, the accused being convicted of a minor offence; in the case of 3 persons a re-trial was ordered, and 3 persons were acquitted.

Revision.

102. In addition to 3 cases pending at the opening of the year, 117 cases, 2 more than in 1908, were reported for orders by District Magistrates and Sessions Judges. Of these 102 were decided and 18 remained pending. In 52 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 12 a new trial was ordered. In 13 cases sentences were reduced or altered, and in 2 they were enhanced. In the remaining 23 the High Court did not interfere.

Orders were passed under section 435, Code of Criminal Procedure, in 480 cases, 27 less than in 1908. Of these 464 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 16 were taken up by it of its own motion.

Of the applications for the issue of rules 254 were rejected. Of the 210 issued, 70 were finally discharged, and 61 made absolute in their entirety. The orders complained of were modified in 41 cases; the proceedings were quashed in 6 cases and in 32 cases a new trial was ordered.

In 13 of the 16 cases taken up by the High Court of its own motion the orders passed by the Lower Court were not disturbed, in two cases the sentences were enhanced and in the case of one person the conviction and sentence by a Deputy Magistrate were set aside and commitment to Court of Sessions directed.

Applications for transfer.

103. One application for transfer was found pending and 41 were made during the year. Of these 6 were rejected and 10 granted without issue of a rule, while of the 22 on which rules were issued, 17 were granted and 5 refused; the remaining four were left pending.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

104. The cases of 5,103 persons were decided on revision, 249 less than in 1908. The applications of 1,779 persons were rejected, and as regards 1,784 the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the case of 46 persons were reversed; in 7 instances proceedings were quashed, and the order of the Lower Court was modified in the cases of 10 persons. In those of 1,178 new trials or further inquiries were directed and those of 299 were referred to the High Court.

Magistrates' Courts.

105. The cases of 2,178 accused persons (less by 306 than in 1908) came before District Magistrates for revision. The applications of 606 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 758 the original sentence or order was upheld. In the cases of 14 persons it was modified, and in those of 94 reversed. In the cases of 6 persons proceedings were quashed and in those of 671 new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 29 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British subjects.

106. As in 1908, the cases of 11 European British subjects were decided during the year, 10 by Magistrates and one by the High Court. Only one claimed trial by a mixed jury. Six of the accused were acquitted and five were convicted, 3 for offences affecting the human body, 1 for contempt of lawful authority, and 1 for an offence against property.

Offences against the State.

107. The returns of the Lower Courts show 17 persons, against 10 in 1908, as under trial for offences against the State, *viz.*, in Bakarganj 6, in Faridpur 5, in Tippera and Chittagong 2 each, in Dacca and Mymensingh 1 each. Of these 10 were convicted and 7 discharged. For dissemination of seditious matter, 17 persons, as against 20 in 1908, were proceeded against, *viz.*, in Bakarganj 7, in Faridpur 5, in Tippera 4, and in Dacca 1.

References to Government under section 401, Criminal Procedure Code.

108. During the year under report a number of cases came before Government under the provisions of section 401, Criminal Procedure Code, for the exercise of the prerogative of mercy. The majority of these were based on unsupported prayers or denials received from prisoners in jail through the Inspector General of Prisons, and in all these cases His Honour declined to interfere. Recommendations were received from the Hon'ble Judges of the Hight Court on behalf of four persons. In two of these cases sentences of transportation for life were commuted, one to a sentence of 10 years' rigorous imprisonment, the other to a sentence of seven years' transportation. In the third case a sentence of eight years' rigorous imprisonment was reduced and in the fourth case a sentence of seven years' rigorous imprisonment was entirely remitted. A reduction of sentence in another case was granted on the recommendation of the Magistrate of Rajshahi.

In three cases sentences were suspended for various periods in the interests of criminal investigation.

Receipts and charges.

109. The total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 15,91,157, the receipts to Rs. 7,98,099. The charges exceeded those of 1908 by Rs. 34,807, the receipts fell short of those of 1908 by Rs. 27,598.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

Criminal Justice in Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

110. There was an increase in the number of cases brought to trial in Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts, the number being 1,007 as against 872 in the year before. The cases decided numbered 1,004, in which 2,143 persons were implicated. Of these 1,548 (72·0 per cent.) were convicted against 63·2 per cent. convicted in 1908-1909. There were 44 appeals to District Officers, and 44 were decided. In 19 cases the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed, in 4 modified, and in 9 reversed; 23 appeals were summarily rejected. There were 9 appeals to the Local Government, and 9 decided. In the case of 12 persons the appeal was summarily rejected, and in that of 4 persons the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed.

SECTION 5.—Jails.

[*See* Report on the Jail Administration in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

General.

111. There was no change in the number of central and district jails, but two new subsidiary jails were opened, at Gopalganj and Shahzadpur. At the beginning of the year there were 7,537 and at the close 7,964 prisoners in jail.

Thirty-seven thousand six hundred and forty-five prisoners were admitted during the year as against 36,821 last year. The daily total average population showed an increase of 126·88 over that of 1908. Of the convicts admitted 65·30 per cent. were Mussalman, 31·57 Hindu, and ·21 per cent. Christian. Sixty-one juveniles and 329 females were imprisoned during the year.

The percentage of literate convicts was 8·7. There was a slight decrease in the number of habitual offenders.

Under-trial prisoners.

112. The daily average of under-trial prisoners was 1,008. The average period of detention in Magistrate's cases was 15·85 days.

Civil prisoners.

113. One hundred and eighty-eight civil prisoners were received during the year as against 197 in 1908.

Discipline.

114. There were 18 escapes from prison, but 13 of these persons were recaptured with 4 who had previously escaped. Offences by convicts showed a decrease of 400 as against 1908, but the number of major offences was larger than in 1908.

Health.

115. The daily average of sick was 273 as against 268 in 1908, and the total number of deaths was 226 as against 243 in 1908. The death-rate was highest in the jails at Shillong, Gauhati, Aijal and Nowgong. The excessive death-rate at Shillong was attributed to the unhealthiness of the year and the bad state of health of those admitted.

Employment of prisoners.

116. Prisoners were employed on unremunerative labour, jail repairs, building works, gardening, and manufactures. The proportion employed on manufactures increased both at central jails and district jails, markedly at Dibrugarh and Tezpur. The Manufactory Department showed a cash profit of Rs. 2,80,681, as against Rs. 1,21,224 in 1908. The reorganisation of industries at the two central jails was sanctioned by Government.

Finance.

117. The net cost of the Jail Department during 1909 was Rs. 4,64,647, against Rs. 6,53,203 in 1908, a reduction of about Rs. 25 per head of average strength.

SECTION 6.—Civil Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

[*See* Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1909; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Judicial staff.

118. The permanent staff consisted of 13 District and Sessions Judges; 3 Additional District and Sessions Judges; 1 Provincial Small Cause Court Judge with the powers of a Subordinate Judge also; 24 Subordinate Judges, and 143 Munsifs. In addition 7 Executive Officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge and 19 those of a Munsif.

Besides the permanent staff a Special Judge was appointed in Bakarganj for hearing appeals against the decisions of Settlement Officers. Additional District and Sessions Judges were employed temporarily in Faridpur and Rajshahi, and temporary Additional Munsifs in Narayanganj, Iswarganj and Serajganj.

Original jurisdiction.

119. There were 384,199 original suits instituted, showing a decrease of 3,009 on the previous year, 198,250 were suits for money or moveables, 143,707 were rent suits and 42,242 title and other suits. The total value amounted to Rs. 3,74,43,577.

Local distribution.

120. Dacca had the largest number of institutions. The only other district with over 40,000 was Mymensingh.

The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for trifling sums.

Disposal of suits.

121. The total number of suits for disposal was 4,64,668, an increase of 392 on the figures for 1908. The number of disposals fell by 10,513 in spite of fewer institutions. The decrease occurred both in contested and uncontested suits, and was most marked in Bakarganj, Tippera, Chittagong and Noakhali, but in the case of Bakarganj and Noakhali the decrease is partly explained by the employment of a smaller staff. There was a decrease in the disposal of suits by Munsifs' Courts more than outweighing the increase in that by Subordinate, Small Cause Court, District and Additional Judges. Consequently the number of pending suits rose from 74,279 to 85,162.

Duration of suits.

122. There was a marked improvement in the duration of suits decided by District Judges, the average duration falling from 216 to 185 days in the case of contested and from 194 to 148 in that of uncontested suits. There was a decrease in the duration of contested suits under ordinary procedure before Subordinate Judges, but an appreciable increase in the duration of the same class of suits before Munsifs, the average rising from 109 days to 168.

Execution Proceedings.

123. There were 57,306 applications for execution of decrees pending from the preceding year and 260,460 such applications were made during the year. Full satisfaction was obtained in 63,559, partial in 49,905 cases. In 144,029 cases the proceedings were returned as infructuous and 55,863 remained pending at the close of the year. The total amount realized in courts other than Small Cause Courts fell from Rs. 79,47,380 to Rs. 74,59,929. In 169 cases the judgment-debtors were imprisoned, in 678 cases arrest was followed by release. There were 6,176 sales of moveable property and 22,846 of immoveable. Possession of immoveable property was given in 12,049 cases.

Miscellaneous Proceedings.

124. Of cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings 34,102 were instituted, 35,024 disposed of, and 7,717 left pending.

Cases of a non-judicial nature to the number of 4,296 were instituted and 4,371 disposed of during the year. The decrease in the number of applications for deposit of rent in Rajshahi from 1,098 in 1908 to 372 in 1909 is remarkable.

Appellate Jurisdiction The High Court.

125. There were 2,496 appeals to the High Court pending from 1908 and 1,619 were preferred during the year. Of these 1,181 were disposed of, as against 1,243 in 1908, leaving 2,934 pending. In 922 cases, or 78 per cent., the appellants were entirely unsuccessful.

PRCT E C-TION

123. There were 13,376 appeals instituted, an increase of 2,696 over 1908, and the proportion of appeals to appealable decisions, excluding those of Revenue Officers, was 29·5 per cent. The increase in appeals was chiefly in Bakarganj, 1,337, of which 63 per cent. were preferred against the decisions of Settlement and Assistant Officers under the Bengal Tenancy Act. The number of appeals disposed of rose from 11,093 to 11,887 owing to the larger output of work by District and Additional Judges. There were 7,358 appeals pending at the close of the year, 1,694 more than at the end of 1908. The appeals pending for more than one year were 61 as compared with 68 in 1908. In 51·3 per cent. the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed, in 15·4 per cent. it was modified, and in 16·7 per cent. it was reversed, a result unfavourable in the Lower Courts as compared with that of 1908. Six hundred and fifty-five appeals were remanded and 1,301 were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

127. There were 1,426 miscellaneous appeals instituted, 1,333 disposed of and 374 left pending. Miscellaneous appeals.

128. The receipts of the Civil Courts in Eastern Bengal and Assam increased from Rs. 59,90,204 to Rs. 61,81,367, and the charges from Rs. 23,21,867 to Rs. 23,86,279. There was a profit to the Government from civil litigation of Rs. 37,95,088, an increase of Rs. 1,26,751 over that in 1908. Receipts and charges.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

129. The number of civil suits instituted in the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts was 1,758 and their value Rs. 1,61,553, a slight increase over the previous year. In all there were 2,086 cases for disposal, of which 1,834 were decided. Appeals to District Officers numbered 84, of which 78 were decided. In 51 cases the decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed, in 4 modified and in 13 reversed, while 10 cases were remanded to the Lower Court. There were 31 appeals to Government, of which 26 were decided. Decisions of the Lower Court were upheld in 24 cases, and modified in 2. During the year there were 1,827 applications for the execution of decrees and 1,237 were decided. Civil Justice in Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

SECTION 7.—Registration.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

130. Thirteen new Sub-Registry offices were opened during the year, *viz.*, joint offices at the headquarters stations of the Chittagong, Sylhet, and Bogra districts, at Kaliakair and Jaimantab in Dacca, Nalitabari in Mymensingh, Aura, Parerhat and Bamna in Bakarganj, Mahadebpur in Rajshahi, Krishnanagar in Faridpur and Panchanandpur in Malda, the latter two being only temporary, and one office with separate jurisdiction at Srimangal in Sylhet. There were therefore 247 offices at work during the year as compared with 234 in 1908. Registration offices.

131. The *ex-officio* Sub-Registry office at Kanairghat was converted into a regular office. Two salaried Sub-Registrars resigned without completing their service and one was dismissed. Administration.

132. The total number of deeds registered during the year rose from 888,558 in 1908 to 889,311. There was a smaller number of sales generally, but an increase in mortgages in the Rajshahi Division and of bonds in that and the Chittagong Division, while in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Cachar, and the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and in all the districts of the Rajshahi and Assam Valley Divisions, except Rangpur and Goalpara, registrations increased. The increase in the Rajshahi Division was probably due to the poor harvest there, but in Pabna it was said to be partly due to the emigration of villagers to Rangpur and Goalpara. Documents registered.

133. The total receipts rose from Rs. 9,51,004 to Rs. 9,66,485, the total expenditure from Rs. 5,77,440 to Rs. 6,19,575, an increase of 7·3 per cent. This large increase occurred chiefly under the heads Salaries and Establishments and was partly due to the introduction of the salaried system in the Surma Valley and partly to the opening of 11 new permanent offices. Receipts and expenditure.

134. There were 196 Muhammadan Marriage Registrars at work at the close of the year showing an increase of 9 over the previous year 1908-1909. Of these, 7 were new offices and 2 were old ones re-opened after having been closed for some time. There was an increase of 1,159 or 2·4 per cent. on the total number of ceremonies, despite a decrease in the number of *talaq* and *khola* divorces registered. The increase generally is ascribed to the popularity of the Act and to a greater interest shown by the Muhammadan Registrars in their work. The prohibition of the registration of divorces on the application of the wife alone has slightly checked the increase in Chittagong. The absence of provision for registration of divorces on the application of Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

the wife alone was said to be productive of hardship in some cases, and Muhammadan Associations are being consulted as to the desirability of amending the law.

Leaving out of account 9 offices, in which no ceremonies were registered, the average number of registrations per office was 263, as against 274 in 1908.

Except in Bakarganj the Qazis' Act made little headway owing to the opposition of village *mollas* and headmen.

Registration under Act III of 1872.

135. Under Act III of 1872 altogether 13 marriages were registered. Only one widow was remarried.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

136. During the year 128 companies limited by shares and registered under Act VI of 1882 were at work having paid-up capital amounting to Rs. 55,79,720 as against 109 companies with paid-up capital of Rs. 50,98,281 in the previous year. There were 3 companies limited by guarantee, one new company being registered during the year. Twenty joint-stock companies were registered during the year, but most of them suffered from want of capital. The nominal capital of 18 companies was Rs. 6,35,000, but the paid-up capital was only three quarters of a lakh, the most extreme case being that of the Chittagong Agricultural Company which, with a nominal capital of Rs. 50,000, only had a paid-up capital of Rs. 15.

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration.

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipalities in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1909-1910; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

General.

137. The constitution of the Nazira Union raised the number of Municipalities in the province to 51. Further powers were given to the Jorhat and Tezpur Municipalities; the Glanders and Farcy Act was introduced into Barisal and the Hackney Carriage Act into Dinajpur and Sylhet. New rules under section 241 of Act III of 1884 were framed in Netrakona and Comilla. General elections were held in 10 Municipalities and were keenly contested. The number of meetings rose from 625 to 738 and the average attendance from 56·8 per cent. to 58·9 per cent.

Taxation.

138. The tax on holdings was in force in 17 Municipalities, the alternative tax on persons being in force elsewhere. A water-rate was levied in 4 towns and latrine fees in 40. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 1-9-5 against Rs. 1-8 in the preceding year. The percentage of rate-payers to the urban population rose from 16·9 to 17·2, Revised assessments came into force during the year in 36 towns and provided for a net increase in income of Rs. 41,158.

Income.

139. The percentage of collections on current demand showed but slight improvement on the year before, being 96·1 against 96 per cent. Outstandings rose from 6·7 to 7·4 per cent. of the total demand and remissions on the current demand rose from 2·2 to 2·6 per cent. The aggregate income of Municipalities, excluding opening balances, was Rs. 20,70,827, an increase of Rs. 3,74,714 which occurred mainly under "Grants and Contributions" and "Extraordinary and Debt." Excluding receipt under these heads the local income increased by Rs. 77,702. Grants from Government amounted to Rs. 3,80,542 or 29·6 per cent. of the income collected locally. Large special grants for improvement of the water-supply were made in Dacca (Rs. 2,00,000) and to Mymensingh (Rs. 30,000), and the grant to Chittagong for general improvements was raised to Rs. 20,000. The only loan taken was one of Rs. 2,00,000 by the Dacca Municipality for the reconstruction of the water-works.

Expenditure.

140. The total disbursements amounted to Rs. 20,33,854, or Rs. 2,49,887 in excess of those of the previous year. The principal heads under which increases occurred were "Public works," "Drainage" and "Water-supply."

Municipal improvements: (a) Water-supply.

141. In Dacca nearly 4 lakhs were spent on the remodelling of the water-works. An extension of the water-supply system was carried out at Narayanganj and the Mymensingh and Nator projects received the approval of Government. A comprehensive scheme for the improvement of the Shillong water-supply was under consideration after the close of the year.

(b) Conservancy and drainage.

142. No considerable outlay on original drainage works was incurred, except at English Bazar where Rs. 11,953 were spent on the completion of the new works. In Dacca a number of improvements on the conservancy tramway were carried out, and in Chittagong a septic tank was constructed and a considerable sum spent on the clearance of jungle. In Dacca the work of preparing a main drainage scheme was continued.

Miscellaneous.

143. Expenditure on "Public Works" and "Public Instruction" increased by Rs. 40,949 and Rs. 9,610 respectively, while that on "Hospitals and Dispensaries" rose by Rs. 1,065. Of the outlay on public works about five-sixths was spent on

the construction and maintenance of roads, and the heavy expenditure on roads in the town of Dacca was mainly responsible for the increase under this head. At Narayanganj a new school-house was built for the Morgan Model Girls' School. Operation rooms were constructed at Pirojpur and Jamalpur, and pauper-wards at Nator and Jalpaiguri.

Financial position.

144. The aggregate closing balances amounted to Rs. 3,23,073, or Rs. 36,492 in excess of the previous year's figure. The actual balance, however, exclusive of uncashed cheques, was Rs. 2,77,518, or Rs. 22,477 more than in 1908-1909. Two Municipalities were in an unsound financial position and the balances of five others were too low. On the other hand, the balances accumulated by several Municipalities were unnecessarily large.

Audit.

145. In his report on the Local Audit Department the Examiner of Local Funds Accounts pointed out some of the commonest faults in Municipal administration. Poor collections were found to be due to slackness on the part of the collecting staff, excessive liberality in granting remissions and failure to enforce demands. In the municipality quoted by the Examiner as an example, the Commissioners disposed of petitions for remission in which they were personally interested. Considerable neglect was found in the supervision and check of accounts; inferior methods of taxation were obstinately adhered to; work was paid for at extravagant rates, and warrants rarely enforced, and against well-to-do rate-payers rarely even issued. In Assam a uniform system of accounts was introduced.

SECTION 9.—District and Local Boards.

[*See* Resolution on the working of District and Local Boards in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1909-1910; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

General.

146. There was no change in the number of District and Local Boards in the province and practically none in their constitution. There was a further improvement in the representation of the Muhammadan community and an increase in the number of successful meetings. The Union Committees of the Chittagong Division did useful work in connection with village roads and sanitation. An allotment made by the Sanitary Board for improvement of the water-supply could not be utilised as the Committees failed to fulfil the conditions attached to the grant.

Finance.

147. The opening balance of the District and Local Boards was Rs. 20,44,962, their income was Rs. 50,17,285 and their total expenditure was Rs. 54,82,629, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 15,79,618. There was a decrease of Rs. 2,96,213 in ordinary income, owing to a reduction of over 3 lakhs under "Contributions." It was found necessary to reduce the grants made by Government for the improvement of communications and for the development of private institutions by Rs. 1,60,000 and Rs. 20,000, respectively, while the decrease in expenditure following on the provincialisation of Sub-Inspectors of Schools was balanced by a reduction of Rs. 84,368 in the grants made for general purposes. Apart from contributions by the Government the income of Boards expands little except in Assam, and while receipts fell in Eastern Bengal, they increased in the Assam Valley by 4·6 per cent. and in the Surma Valley by over 5 per cent. Thus, while in the Assam Valley the Boards were able to increase their expenditure by over three-quarters of a lakh, there was a fall in expenditure of Rs. 1,34,113 in Rajshahi and of more than a lakh in Dacca. The aggregate balances fell from Rs. 12,95,163 to Rs 9,02,130, being a reduction of more than 7 lakhs in the last two years. The value of uncashed cheques was again very high.

The work of the year. (a) Education.

148. Owing to the provincialisation of Sub-Inspectors of Schools there was a heavy decrease in expenditure which amounted to Rs. 13,74,964. The proportion of the outlay on education to the Boards' total income continued to be approximately 30 per cent. In nearly every case Government grants were fully utilised. The Boards concerned themselves mainly with lower primary education, and in several cases pursued the policy of concentrating grants, so as really to secure efficiency in schools selected for aid. There was a reduction of 629 in the number of lower primary schools during the year. The advance in female education was less marked than in 1908-09. There was a decrease of 70 schools and 703 pupils in the Faridpur district. In technical education no advance was made, but the spread of Muhammadan education continued and was marked by an increase not only in the number of pupils of both sexes, but also in the number of scholarships won by them.

(b) Medical.

149. The total medical expenditure amounted to Rs. 4,01,013, an increase of Rs. 32,189 over the figures for 1908-09. Six new dispensaries were opened and 3 were in progress but 11 were closed in Bakarganj on the introduction of the reorganisation scheme. In the Chittagong Division and in six other districts doctors were deputed to

deal with epidemics. The Mymensingh Board maintained branch dispensaries at 5 *hats* and many Boards deputed medical officers to attend *hats*. The Rangpur Board distributed permanganate of potash for the disinfection of tanks and wells and for use in cases of snake-bite and four Boards, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Dacca and Silchar, distributed eucalyptus oil and cholera pills with instructions for the treatment of cholera cases. The Boards displayed a growing tendency to employ lady doctors. The Muhammadan lady sent by the Mymensingh District Board to the Dacca Medical School qualified as a Sub-Assistant Surgeon and was given an appointment at Kishorganj. The Bogra Board continued the scholarship granted to a Muhammadan lady student last year and Gauhati Board granted a scholarship to a lady student in the Cuttack Medical School. The Dibrugarh Board contributed Rs. 1,000 to the maintenance of a lady Sub-Assistant Surgeon at the Dibrugarh dispensary, and lady doctors were also entertained by the Malda, Pabna, Karimganj and Sunamganj Boards.

(c) Sanitation. 150. Apart from the improvement of the rural water-supply, sanitary work was confined mainly to the cleaning of tanks and drains and the clearing of jungle. In Assam special attention was paid to the improvement and conservancy of *hats* and bazars. The total amount spent was Rs. 18,422.

(d) Water-supply. 151. Excellent progress was again made in the improvement of the rural water-supply. The total expenditure was Rs. 3,13,867, more than double the amount spent in 1907. A water-works project to cost Rs. 25,000 has been sanctioned for Munshiganj. The importance of working on a systematic programme is becoming more widely recognized. The Sanitary Board made liberal grants to assist Boards in their work.

(e) Drainage. 152. Less attention was paid to drainage than in previous years and the total expenditure fell from Rs. 17,894 to Rs. 13,421. The Tippera Board, which spent Rs. 5,430 on the re-excavation of *khals*, alone incurred any considerable expenditure under this head.

(f) Public Works. 153. The total allotment for Public Works amounted to Rs. 32,50,565, of which Rs. 28,79,416 was spent, as against Rs. 33,92,656 and Rs. 29,93,734, respectively, in 1908-09. The lapse was 11·42 per cent. as against 11·76 in the previous year, failure to spend allotments being most marked in Sibsagar (35·51 per cent.), Golaghat, Dacca, Dhubri and Bakarganj.

(g) Veterinary. 154. Veterinary charges amounted to Rs. 44,303, representing an increase of about Rs. 1,800 in Assam and a decrease of nearly Rs. 3,000 in Eastern Bengal. Expenditure was incurred on the establishment and equipment of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries, the entertainment of a veterinary staff, the grant of scholarships and the maintenance of stud bulls. Good work was done in the prevention and treatment of disease. Cattle-shows were held at Sylhet and Sunamganj.

(h) Industrial Development. 155. Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions were held during the year at Noakhali, Dhubri and Sylhet, and were partly financed by grants made by District and Local Boards. The Dhubri Board gave a contribution of Rs. 10,000 to promote the success of the Dhubri Exhibition. Apart from these exhibitions no progress was made in the development of industries. Attempts to start weaving classes generally failed. In Dacca and Bakarganj the weavers selected for special training refused to undergo the course. The Jorhat Local Board dispensed with the services of its weaving Inspector as his efforts to introduce improved methods met with little or no success. The peripatetic instructor of the North Sylhet Local Board was a little more successful and induced a good many weavers to buy fly-shuttle hand-looms for their own use.

A sum of Rs. 12,117 was spent by the Boards of Eastern Bengal in maintaining existing trees, planting new trees to fill gaps, and starting new avenues. The Rangpur Board spent Rs. 2,685 and the Mymensingh Board Rs. 2,261. In Assam practically nothing was done in this direction. In a few cases overseers were sent to Calcutta to be trained in arboriculture.

SECTION 10.—Military (Volunteering).

Volunteer corps. 156. The undermentioned Volunteer Corps were in existence in the Province during 1909-1910:—

Surma Valley Light Horse.
Assam Valley Light Horse.
Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles.
Assam-Bengal Railway Volunteers.

Detachments of the Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles as well as of the Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteer Rifles were also in existence in this area, though attached to the Presidency Brigade.

The strength of the several corps was as follows:—

Corps.	Officers.	Rank and file.	Reservists.	
			Officers.	Rank and file.
1	2	3	4	5
Surma Valley Light Horse	33	276	...	16
Assam Valley Light Horse	31	439	6	127
Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles	15	278	...	55
Assam-Bengal Railway Volunteer Rifles ...	24	356	...	8
Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles	19	168	...	31
Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteer Rifles ...	8	188	...	12
Total	133	1,705	6	249

157. Major General H. Bower, C.B., commanded the Brigade throughout the year. Major C. A. R. Hutchinson, 41st Dogras, resumed the duties of Brigade Major in November. Brigade staff.

SECTION 11.—Marine.

THE PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

[*See* Administration Report of the Commissioners for the Port of Chittagong for the year 1909-1910.]

158. The income of the ordinary Port Fund during the year 1909-1910 amounted to Rs. 1,31,071 compared with Rs. 1,91,160 of the previous year, a decrease of Rs. 60,089 or 45·84 per cent. Financial.

159. The expenditure from the Ordinary Port Fund in 1909-1910 (including the sum of Rs. 24,131 spent on capital account) amounted to Rs. 1,97,388, against Rs. 1,72,615 of the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 24,773. Ordinary expenditure.

The liabilities of the Port Trust on the 31st March 1910, exclusive of loans taken from Government for revetment work, amounted to Rs. 23,256-6-2. At present the Port Fund is not in a very favourable position. The income during the year under review was Rs. 1,31,071, against which the expenditure was Rs. 1,97,388. A considerable portion of the Port Fund income is absorbed by the payment of interest on revetment loans.

160. The Government grant for revetment work given during the year was Rs. 1,75,000. The amount borrowed by the Port Commissioners from Government, to meet half the expenditure on the revetment work, amounted to Rs. 1,75,000 at 4 per cent. per annum. The total expenditure against the Government grants and loans on revetment account during the year 1909-1910 was Rs. 3,04,262. The erosion of the Gupta Char bye-channel caused the main channel of the Karnafuli river to silt up near the jetties, constituting a danger to the Port which made the closing of the bye-channel imperative. An estimate amounting to Rs. 1,69,600 was sanctioned by the Government of India for this project, the cost to be met from the revetment account. Towards the close of the year the Assam-Bengal Railway Company gave notice of their intention to enhance the concession rate of freight charged for the carriage of stone from the Jetinga Valley. The cost of stone thus increased will cause an excess of Rs. 80,500 over the sanctioned estimates for revetment work. This will add to the financial difficulties of the Port and may delay the completion of the revetment programme. The revetment of the right bank of the Karnafuli river was continued, the length of bank revetted being about 2,360 feet. Improvements to the Port (Revetment).

161. The credit of the Dredger Account for the year, from all sources, amounted to Rs. 1,01,303-7-5 which included the Government grant of Rs. 92,000 towards the maintenance and working of the dredger. The actual expenditure during the year Dredging.

on revenue account was Rs. 49,415. The unexpended balance at the close of the year was Rs. 48,532-7-5; the principal liability against this balance was Rs. 25,437-5-10, which represents the expenditure incurred for repairs to the dredger. The dredger was employed for 152 days up to the end of January 1910. Dredging was confined principally to the Outer Bar, work on the Inner Bar being done only when necessary to keep it to its normal level. The total quantity dredged during the year amounted to 10,575,000 cubic feet, against 6,194,320 cubic feet in the preceding year. A second dredger is urgently needed for the port and the question is under the consideration of the Commissioners.

Shipping. 162. During the year under review 384 vessels entered the port with a net aggregate tonnage of 3,73,770 against 394 vessels with a net aggregate tonnage of 4,46,098 for the previous year. Three hundred and seventy vessels with a net aggregate tonnage of 3,73,642 cleared from the port during the year, against 389 vessels with a net aggregate tonnage of 4,55,901 for the previous year.

Trade. 163. The values of the imports and exports of the foreign and coasting trade during 1909-1910 amounted to 648·97 lakhs of rupees, against 693·58 lakhs of the previous year, showing a decrease of 44·61 lakhs or 6·43 per cent. of the aggregate value of the trade.

Jetties. 164. A fourth railway terminal jetty was completed during the year.

Port appliances. 165. The light-houses were maintained in good order. The lights were exhibited throughout the year without interruption.

Pilotage Fund. 166. The receipts of the Pilotage Fund (an excluded Local Fund) during the year 1909-1910 amounted to Rs. 33,122 against Rs. 21,671 for the previous year. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 22,125 against Rs. 25,651 for the previous year. The closing balance on the 31st March 1910 was Rs. 13,622, against which the liabilities of the Fund amounted to Rs. 31,971. To meet this, and to place the Fund in a sound financial position, certain measures of relief have been sanctioned by the Local Government since the close of the year.

Health of the Port. 167. The health of the Port was good during the year.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION I.—Agriculture and Horticulture.

[*See* Report of the Agricultural Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year ending the 30th June 1910.]

General.

168. The superior cadre of the Department of Agriculture was strengthened by the addition of a second Deputy Director, an Economic Botanist, and a European Gardener. The headquarters of the Fibre Expert were moved from Pusa to Dacca towards the close of the year; he was principally engaged in the study of the races of jute and in experiments with flax and a number of other fibres. The Agricultural Chemist was occupied for the greater part of the year in supervising the fitting up of the laboratories at Dacca. The Economic Botanist joined the Department at the beginning of the year, and was engaged in supervising the arrangements for the Botanical Section of the laboratory at Dacca, in examining the cottons of the Garo Hills and Chittagong Hill Tracts, and in supervising the work of the Plantation at Wahjain. The Honorary Correspondents and Associates continued to do useful work. To encourage them to make demonstrations it was decided that, when any Associate wished to make any experiment approved of by the Department, he should be given seeds up to the value of Rs. 50, and free use of the implements required to carry out the experiment. The receipts of the Department amounted to Rs. 11,882 and the expenditure to Rs. 3,19,640 as against Rs. 9,160 and Rs. 2,06,121 in the previous year.

Agricultural Associations.

169. There were two Agricultural Associations in the province during the year, one at Bogra, the other at Rangpur. The Association at Bogra made experiments with Dacca Ganderi sugarcane, Nainital potato and Bakarganj Balam paddy and the results were generally satisfactory.

In 1908 the management of the Rangpur Farm was transferred to the Rangpur Agricultural Association. Government agreed to pay half the gross working expenses up to Rs. 3,000 per annum. Experiments were made in rice, sugarcane, jute, ginger, wheat and potatoes. The cultivation of rice and jute was entrusted to local raiyats, who did not pay proper attention to it, with the result that the crops were poor. The experiments in Dacca Ganderi and striped Tanna sugarcane were a success, as was also the experiment in Jamaica ginger. The receipts of the farm amounted to Rs. 1,611 and the expenditure to Rs. 6,841.

Work done at Farms.

170. The work at the Dacca Farm was still mainly preparatory. Green manuring with *dhaincha* was extensively practised, and experiments in various other manures were also made. Crop experiments were almost entirely confined to winter paddy in low land. Experiments were made at Rajshahi with sugarcane, winter paddy, jute and potatoes. Nearly all the experiments proved valueless owing to a combination of unfortunate circumstances. The line of the proposed railway from Godagari to Nator cuts right through the farm and, if persisted in may necessitate the abandonment of the farm; the Lieutenant-Governor has decided that the farm should be retained up to the end of June 1911, pending further consideration. The principal crops grown at Burirhat were tobacco, cowpea, *dhaincha*, jowar, *aus* rice, *matikalai*, oats, mustard and potatoes. The tobacco crop grew well and gave a satisfactory yield. *Aus* rice, oats and *matikalai* grew well, but the yield of grain was poor, owing, it is believed, to the want of lime in the soil. Cowpea proved a success, and was found to be very useful for green manuring. The mustard crop failed for want of moisture in the soil. At Jorhat the chief crop was sugarcane. Experiments were made with several varieties, with the result that Kheri and striped Mauritius were again found to be superior to all other varieties. At Shillong potatoes, flax, and several fodder crops were cultivated. The use of the Bordeaux mixture as a preventive of potato disease was not efficacious on account of the very wet season. The experiments in exotic clover and grasses were not a success.

Other Agricultural enterprise: (a) Fruit.

171. Fruit was grown at Shillong and Wahjain, but the prospects of the English fruit trees at Shillong are not favourable. The fruit does not get sufficient time to set, owing to the early appearance of the monsoon. Peaches, apricots, figs, strawberries and tree tomatoes did fairly well, and rhubarb and asparagus very well. At Wahjain the experiments in budding oranges on all the available varieties of local citrus were continued, but did not prove particularly successful.

(b) Live-stock breeding operations.

172. At the Shillong Farm cattle-breeding was continued. The young Patna bulls promise well. The chief difficulty to be contended with is the shortage of grazing in the winter months. Good results were obtained by crossing some ewes of the local

breed with a Dumba ram. Poultry breeding at the Shillong Farm was abandoned during the year, and operations were transferred to Dacca, where they could be supervised by the Agricultural Chemist. The experiment promises well. In the Lushai Hills the results obtained have been extraordinarily good.

(c) Experiments in Hill Districts other than the Khasi Hills.

173. Experiments in new crops and methods were freely made in the Hill Districts. The results of the cultivation of potatoes in the Lushai Hills were decidedly good. Wet rice cultivation was tried both in the Naga and Lushai Hills. In both districts the results were good, but in the former district there was some prejudice against this method of cultivation, mainly because it was new. In the latter district wet cultivation is spreading rapidly. Wheat, oats and barley were also tried in the Lushai Hills.

(d) Seed distribution.

174. The Seed Depôt at Dacca distributed a quantity of seeds, manures and implements, but the greater part was issued to other provinces or to Farm Superintendents. Only 75 natives of this province took seeds from the Seed Depôt.

(e) Sericulture.

175. The Central Nursery at Mirganj commenced rearing work at Mirganj in March last. The results of the experiments made have been uniformly good. There are two other nurseries at Baneswar and Kharkhari, both in the Rajshahi district. Three crops were raised at the former and two at the latter during the year. There is a training school at Rajshahi for the sons of silkworm rearers. Four crops of cocoons were raised in the school during the year.

(f) Weaving

176. The Department continued its efforts to improve hand-loom weaving. An instructor, whose services were lent by the Salvation Army, succeeded in introducing improvements in fly-shuttle looms at Bharenga in the Pabna District and is getting them adopted. As a result the Bharenga weavers have learnt to weave twills and drills, and the weaving of ordinary plain cloth has been improved.

(g) Agricultural Education.

177. Apart from practical demonstrations and experiments the principal methods of stimulating agricultural knowledge in this province are the introduction of nature studies in primary schools, the deputation of students to the Poona Agricultural College; the practical training of village youths and the subordinate staff of the Agricultural Department at Pusa, and the practical training of the sons of cultivators by the deputation of a certain number of apprentices to the various Government Farms.

(h) Exhibitions.

178. The usual annual show of field and garden produce was held at Shillong. The exhibition at Dhubri, opened by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 3rd February 1910, was the largest ever held in this province. There was also a successful revival of the Malda exhibition which had been in abeyance for two years owing to agricultural depression. The Agricultural Department contributed a comprehensive collection of the staples of the province. A number of practical demonstrations were held, notably the manufacture of sugar by the Hadi process, the extraction of fibre from flax and plantain trees by simple hand-machines, the manufacture of butter and cream by modern machinery and the manufacture of lac.

SECTION 2—Co-operative Credit Societies.

[*See* Report on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1910; Statistics of British India, Part II.]

Number of Societies.

179. The Co-operative Credit movement continued to expand and the total number of societies rose from 231 to 366. One hundred and twenty-eight new rural societies, one Co-operative Union and nine Urban banks were opened and only three rural societies were closed. No central bank has yet been registered in the province.

Urban Societies.

180. Though the number of urban societies only increased by 33 per cent., their capital increased by nearly 90 per cent. Eight societies opened current accounts for the benefit of members, six of them paying interest at from 3 to $4\frac{11}{16}$ per cent. Two societies opened stores branches for the use of members. Fixed deposits showed a satisfactory increase and there were welcome indications of a growing tendency to save amongst the poorer members. During the year Rs. 1,90,489 were advanced to members in 1,498 loans as against Rs. 1,21,783 in 1,011 loans in the previous year, the rates of interest varying from 9 per cent. to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. More than 40 per cent. of the amount borrowed was devoted to the liquidation of older debts which carried higher rates of interest, and loans for entirely unproductive purposes were not common. Two loans of Rs. 3,200 were taken for the novel purpose of sending sons to England for their education. Recoveries continued to be made with ease and punctuality. Four urban societies have virtually developed into central banks and confine their operations to financing other societies, while ten others combine outside loans with the financing of their own members. The amount advanced by these fourteen institutions to other societies during the year was Rs. 92,665 and their outstanding dues at the close of the year exceeded $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs.

Rural Societies.

181. Rural societies have hitherto been organized on the Raiffeisen type without shares and depending for their capital on the voluntary deposits of members; but as in the older societies deposits have shown no tendency to increase and an experiment tried in a few cases of requiring compulsory deposits proved unsuccessful, eight societies were organized on the basis of share capital, in shares of Rs. 100 or Rs. 50, payable by annual instalments of Rs. 10 or Rs. 5. Each member was required to take at least one share, and default in payment entails expulsion with forfeiture of past payments. This innovation has not, however, proved very popular. Of the three societies closed during the year two were new societies, the financial position of whose members was such that they were unable to secure a loan, while the third closed only to be reorganised as a Co-operative Union of four separate societies.

The capital of the rural societies increased from Rs. 3,53,575 to Rs. 5,41,593, giving an average of Rs. 1,641 per society, but the average deposit per member remained slightly below Rs. 9, showing a disappointing absence of progress in the collection of internal capital; an increase in the rate of interest payable on deposits in some societies to 7½ per cent., 9⅜ per cent and even 12½ per cent failed to attract deposits to any great extent. Seven thousand five hundred and fifty-eight loans aggregating Rs. 2,67,950 were issued against 6,117 loans for Rs. 2,48,071 in the previous year. Repayment of older debts, agricultural operations and purchase of cattle accounted for two-thirds of the amount taken on loan. The proportion of loans issued for non-productive purposes was satisfactorily small.

Rates of interest charged by rural societies compared with these of money-lenders.

182. In Eastern Bengal the general rate of interest was 18¾ per cent. against 12½ per cent. in the Assam and Surma Valleys, where money is cheaper. As far as can be discovered the prevailing rate of interest charged by money-lenders is 37½ per cent. per annum and the minimum rate is 24 per cent.; there is no maximum, and many cases of 150 per cent. and over have come to notice, while compound interest is frequently charged. The rate of interest has, however, fallen in places where the Co-operative Credit movement has obtained a footing.

Weavers' Banks.

183. The Weavers' Bank at Jaffrabad in Tippera continued to work succesfully, and that at Bharenga in Pabna made considerable progress. Yarn was purchased from Calcutta and sold at a profit of 2½ per cent. to members and the society also purchased the clothes manufactured by the members and sold them at the same commission.

Profits.

184. Every urban society, except the Weavers' Bank at Bharenga, pays a dividend on the share capital out of the profits and in no case did the dividend fall below that paid in the preceding year, the rate varying from 2·2 per cent. in the new society at Golaghat to 17·55 in the Silchar Bank. All the rural societies save one worked at a profit. The entire profits amounting to Rs. 40,056, were carried to the reserve funds, which now aggregate Rs. 72,478. The Urban Societies also increased their reserve funds by 72 per cent. to Rs. 13,919.

SECTION 3.—Weather and Crops.

[*See* Report on the Season and Crops of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 31st March 1910. Agricultural Statistics of British India, Volume I, Appendix A. Area and yield of certain principal Crops in India]

General character of the weather.

185. The spring rains were generally in defect; in only two districts—Bakarganj and Noakhali—was the normal exceeded. From June to September the rainfall was plentiful and in many districts was in excess of the normal. October was remarkable for a violent cyclone with heavy showers, and the autumn rainfall exceeded the normal in nearly all districts of the province. The weather in the winter months was not very satisfactory; in the plains districts rainfall was considerably in defect. Some slight damage was done to crops in low-lying areas by floods, but on the whole the year was a favourable one for cultivation.

Outturn.

186. The acreage under spring and winter rice was below and of *aus* paddy above the normal. The outturn of rice was calculated to be 102 per cent. of a normal crop and 38 per cent. more than the yield of the previous year. According to the district returns the outturn of jute was estimated to be 632,300 bales in excess of the outturn of the previous year, but trade statistics indicate that the outturn was much underestimated. Sugarcane, rape and mustard showed an increase in output, tobacco a decrease.

Prices and wages.

187. The price of rice fell considerably during the year. At the beginning of the year it stood at Rs. 4-8, rose in June to Rs. 4-12 and thereafter fell steadily till at the beginning of January 1910 it stood at Rs. 3-4, a price far lower than the prevailing price at the corresponding period in any of the last four years.

SECTION 4.—Forests.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909-1910.]

General. 188. During the year the Chittagong Hill Tracts were separated from the Chittagong Division and formed into a separate charge. The Provincial Training class was held at Kachugaon.

Area of reserved Forests. 189. The total area of reserved forests under the direct control of the Forest Department at the end of the year was 6,477 square miles. The reservation of the Narpuh and Nongkhyllem forests in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills Division resulted in an increase of 62 square miles to the Western Circle, while in the Eastern Circle there was an increase of 104 square miles due to more accurate computation of areas in the Sylhet and Cachar Divisions. Of the four settlement cases pending one was disposed of by the reservation of 15 square miles in the Sibsagar Division. Proposals were submitted to Government for the reservation of an area of 21 square miles in North Lakhimpur, two areas in Sibsagar, and an area of 2,500 acres in Jalpaiguri as an addition to the Titi Forest. Extensions in Kamrup, Darrang, Goalpara and the Khasi and Jaintia Hills were taken under consideration by the Conservator of the Western Circle.

Working plans. 190. Working plans were sanctioned for the forests in the Kamrup Division south of the Brahmaputra, an area of 162 square miles, for the Shillong forests in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and for 158 square miles in Nowgong. Plans were prepared for the Jokai and Holanagar Reserves in the Lakimpur and Sibsagar Divisions.

Communicatons and buildings. 191. Expenditure on communications and buildings rose from Rs. 1,13,405 to Rs. 1,28,929, of which Rs. 1,02,602 were spent on original works. The Goalpara tramway was extended by 1 mile and 22 chains and yielded a profit of 9·08 per cent. on the total outlay up to date. Ninety-one and a half miles of new cart road were constructed during the year, 6 miles of new cart tracks and 67 miles of paths at a total cost of Rs. 30,866. The total expenditure on new buildings amounted to Rs. 68,633, devoted mainly to the construction or purchase of residences, rest houses, and subordinates' quarters.

Forest offences and protection. 192. The total number of forest offences reported during the year was 1,054, against 875 in the previous year, the increase being due to stricter supervision in the Western Circle. The number of cases brought into court was 282, and the percentage of acquittals fell from 24·1 to 16·2.

The area protected from fire was extended from 1,518 to 1,569 square miles and the percentage successfully protected rose from 76·70 to 99·37. Greater precautions are reported to have been taken, but the results were mainly due to the early rains which proved an efficient natural protection.

Rubber plantations. 193. In the Charduar rubber plantation, trees were tapped over 348 acres and the yield (37·3 lb. per acre) was the highest yet obtained. At Kulsi the outturn was 36·8 lb. per acre. The produce was sold locally at Rs. 3-0-1 per lb. against Rs. 2-11-1 in the previous year.

Forest villages. 194. Nine new forest villages were established during the year and proved extremely useful.

Financial Results. 195. Information under this head is included in Chapter V "Revenue and Finance."

SECTION 5.—Manufactures and Mines.

[*See* Report on Tea Culture in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909; Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909-1910; Statistics of British India, Part I; Note on the Production of Tea in India.]

Tea. 196. During the year three tea gardens were amalgamated with others and seven new gardens opened, while the area of land under tea also increased. There was an increase of 1 per cent. in the number of labourers employed during the year. The year's crop amounted to 229,477,756 lbs. of black tea and 897,233 lbs. of green tea, showing in all an increase of about 9 per cent. over the crop of the previous year, partly due to the favourable weather conditions partly to the increase of the area under the crop. Owing to an increased demand better prices, particularly in the case of low grade teas, were obtained both in Calcutta and London.

Minerals. 197. Three prospecting licenses were granted during the year, one for coal, iron and slate in Lakhimpur and two for oil in the Chittagong district. Six coal mines were worked during the year, five in Lakhimpur and one non-act mine in Sibsagar. The total output was 305,653 tons valued at Rs. 14,52,674; the Government royal-

ties amounted to Rs. 49,421 as compared with Rs. 43,891 in the previous year. The amount of mineral oil produced at Digboi was 3,280,750 gallons, the Government royalty being Rs. 18,404. The limestone quarried amounted to 95,973 tons, of which 555 tons were obtained in Lakhimpur, 95,308 in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and 110 in Manipur.

SECTION 6.—Factories.

[*See* Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1909; Statistics of British India, Part I.]

198. On the 31st December 1909 there were 132 factories at work as compared with 101 in the previous year. There was no change in Assam, but in Eastern Bengal 8 factories were closed and 39 new factories were opened. Number of factories.

The following table shows the classification of factories :—

Printing Press	1
Railway Workshop	9
Steamer Workshop	1
Workshop attached to School of Engineering	1
Iron Works	1
Jute Presses	105
Cotton ginning	2
Oil-mills	1
Saw-mills	7
Tinning Works	1
Tobacco Factory	1
Potteries	1
Aerated water Factory	1
	132

199. Of 137 factories (five since closed) twelve remained uninspected throughout the year. Seventeen were inspected once, 44 twice, 41 thrice and 23 more than three times each. Sixty-seven factories were visited by the Special Inspector of Factories. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division inspected the jute press of Messrs. Ralli Brothers at Domar and the factory of the Rangpur Tobacco Company, the latter factory was also visited by the Director of Agriculture. The rest of the inspection work was done by Medical Officers, District Magistrates and Subdivisional Officers. Suggestions of inspecting officers were readily acted upon except in one or two cases, notably in two factories in the district of Tippera. Comment was made in last year's report on the failure of the managers of these two factories to carry out the Civil Surgeon's suggestions. Generally speaking, the sanitary arrangements were good, the most glaring defects being found in the jute presses at the outer ghat of Serajganj, of which the Special Inspector of Factories reported that sanitary precautions have been entirely neglected. Statistics of mortality are not universally kept, but the health of operatives was on the whole good. Forty-six deaths, however, were registered in the Lakhimpur district as against 44 in the previous year. The percentage of children employed fell from 2·9 to 2·5. Children were granted certificates under section 5 of the Act. Twenty-six accidents occurred during the year—two were fatal, and three serious, the rest minor. There was no prosecution under the Act. General remarks.

SECTION 7.—Maritime Trade.

[*See* Report on the Maritime Trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909-1910; Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of Eastern Bengal and Assam; Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries; Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India; Review of Trade of India; Statistics of British India, Part II.]

200. Nearly all the Maritime Trade of the province is with the port of Chittagong. There are four subordinate ports in the province—Narayanganj, Chandpur, Cox's Bazar and Nillah; but the aggregate value of the imports into these four ports amounted only to Rs. 92,568 and of exports to Rs. 45,408, a very small percentage of the aggregate value of the Maritime Trade of the province. Though there was a decrease in the aggregate value of the trade of Rs. 44·60 lakhs during the year under review, yet the trade of the past three years shows an enormous advance in value over the trade of the preceding three years. The six-weekly steamship service between London, Middlesborough, General Remarks.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

and Chittagong, to which allusion was made in last year's report, has not proved a success. The company appears to have come to some arrangement with the Clan Line, which had almost a monopoly in the carriage of the foreign export trade, with the result that steamers in the new steamship service now call at various East African ports to make up freight and consequently goods shipped in England have taken 2½ months to arrive at Chittagong.

The want of a second dredger is severely felt and undoubtedly retards the progress of the Port.

Foreign Trade.

201. During the year under review there was a decrease of Rs. 42·24 lakhs in the aggregate value of Foreign Trade. Mention may be made of the following important variations.

Imports:—The value of imports under the heads Railway materials and timber fell off from Rs. 19·01 lakhs to Rs. 12·53 lakhs and from Rs. 57,641 to Rs. 641, respectively.

In both cases the decrease is due to curtailment of purchases by the Assam-Bengal Railway Company. On the other hand, there were decided advances in the quantity and value of imports of iron, machinery and millwork and tea chests. There was also a marked revival in the cotton piece-goods trade, which was depressed in the year 1908-1909.

Exports:—The most striking increase over last year is the increase in the quantity and value of tea exported, from 46,191,672 lbs. in quantity and Rs. 172·99 lakhs in value in 1908-1909 to 51,906,844 lbs. in quantity and Rs. 239·79 lakhs in value in the year 1909-1910. The causes for this expansion in the tea trade are interesting and are attributed to two items in the Home Budget, Old Age Pensions and enhanced taxation of alcoholic liquors. A much less satisfactory feature of the export trade, however, is the decrease in the exports of jute. The figures fell from 1,968,387 cwts. in 1908-1909 to 1,168,636 cwts. in 1909-1910. There was a marked decrease in the acreage under jute; the weather for sowing jute was unfavourable, and the price of jute in the home market was bad.

Coasting Trade.

202. There was a decrease of Rs. 2·35 lakhs in the aggregate value of the Coasting Trade. Compared with the year 1908-1909 imports fell off by less than Rs. 17·59 lakhs, but exports increased by Rs. 15·23 lakhs. The chief reason for the decrease in the value of imports is the diminution in the quantity of Burma rice imported. Two years ago on account of the scarcity prevailing in the province imports of Burma rice reached an abnormal figure; they are now reverting to the normal. The increase in value of exports was due mainly to large shipments of tea and raw cotton to Calcutta.

Receipts and expenditure.

203. Custom receipts fell off from Rs. 11·10 lakhs in 1908-1909 to Rs. 9·72 lakhs; there was a decrease in expenditure of Rs. 6,850.

SECTION 8.—Rail and River-Borne Trade.

[*See* Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1909-1910].

Total Rail and River-Borne Trade.

204. The total rail and river-borne trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam with other provinces amounted to 697 lakhs of maunds and its value to Rs. 4,708 lakhs, an increase of 6·6 per cent. in quantity, but a decrease of ·8 per cent. in value. The decrease was due mainly to the low price of jute. Calcutta alone received 69 per cent. of the exports and sent 67 per cent. of the imports. The rest of Bengal received and sent respectively almost 30 per cent. of the exports and 32 per cent. of the imports, but it should be noted that only an insignificant amount of the trade carried by country boats between this province and Bengal is registered.

Imports.

205. Imports increased in quantity by 13·7 per cent. and in value by 9·4 per cent. The chief articles brought in were apparel, manufactured cotton, coal, rice, paddy, gunny bags, metals, mustard oil, kerosene oil, *ghi*, sugar and salt. Imports of apparel exceeded those of preceding year by 29 per cent. There was an increase of Rs. 126·5 lakhs in the trade in foreign piece-goods and yarns, but that in Indian piece-goods and yarns fell by Rs. 8 lakhs. Importation of rice and kerosene declined, while that of gunny bags, iron, *ghi*, salt, coal and sugar increased. Imports of mustard oil and manufactured brass rose in quantity, but fell in value.

Exports.

206. Exports rose in quantity by 2 per cent., but decreased by 7·1 per cent. in value, mainly owing to the lower price of jute. The principal articles of export were raw cotton, rice, paddy, hemp, hides, jute, oilseed, lac, silk, betelnuts, tea and tobacco. The export trade in cotton advanced from 67,010 maunds to 116,142 maunds. Exports of rice and paddy fell. More jute and hemp was exported by rail and river

than previously, but including exports by sea the total quantity exported was less than in 1908-1909. Exports of oilseeds, lac, betelnuts and tobacco, increased in value, while the amount of tea exported by rail and river alone increased by 223,397 maunds, valued at Rs. 127·7 lakhs, that exported by sea increasing by an amount valued at Rs. 56·8 lakhs. This increase is the result of a gradual expansion of the market both in the United Kingdom and in foreign countries. The value of silk exported decreased by Rs. 8·3 lakhs, but it must be remembered that consignments from Assam by rail and steamer are not generally declared as such.

Proportion of river-borne to rail-borne trade.

207. Of the total registered trade 52·6 per cent. of the imports and 49·4 per cent. of the exports were borne by river. The value of imports by rail rose from Rs. 866 lakhs to Rs. 919 lakhs, while that of rail-borne exports fell from Rs. 1,849 lakhs to Rs. 1,441 lakhs.

SECTION 9.—Frontier Trade.

[*See* Report on the Trade between the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam and the adjoining Foreign Tribes and countries for the year 1909-1910.]

General.

208. From the 1st of April 1909 the registration of frontier trade was placed under the direct control of the Director of Agriculture to whom the various Registrars submit their returns direct. The Inspector of Trade Registration Offices appointed during the year inspects the work of the Registrars. This alteration in system has led to the compilation of more reliable statistics. The aggregate value of the frontier trade was Rs. 4,80,576, a decrease of 29·79 per cent. when compared with last year's figure. This decrease is in part due to the fact that Bhutias visited Kamrup and Darrang in smaller numbers than in the previous year, but principally to the more accurate compilation of statistics alluded to above. Most of the trade is with Bhutan, 70·4 per cent., while the trade with the Abor, Mishmi, etc., Hills rose from 9 per cent. in 1908-1909 to 20·8 in 1909-1910. The Deputy Commissioner, Jalpaiguri, reports that a fair is held annually at Jalpesh, which is largely attended by Bhutias. No returns of the trade with Bhutias at this fair have been received, but arrangements to register the trade will be made in future.

Imports.

209. There has been a decrease of Rs. 99,133 in the value of imports as compared with the previous year. The decrease is particularly noticeable in the case of Bhutan where far fewer of all the principal articles of commerce were imported; there was a slight increase in the number of living animals imported, but the value of ponies imported was considerably less than in the preceding year. There was a very marked rise in the quantity and value of rubber imported from the Aka and Dafla Hills and from the Abor, Mishmi, etc., Hills. In both cases the value was practically double. This of course is due to the rise in the rubber market.

Exports

210. Exports showed a decline in value of no less than Rs. 1,04,838. The decrease occurred in respect of nearly all the principal articles of export. Here again the decrease was entirely in the export trade with Bhutan. There was a marked increase, Rs. 8,309, in the value of the exports to the Abors and Mishmis. There was a strong demand for silver and cotton piece-goods which would seem to indicate an increasing prosperity among the Abors and Mishmis; this in its turn may be attributed to the higher prices they have received for their rubber. For any comparison of this year's trade with the preceding year's, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that the statistics of former years were very unreliable.

SECTION 10.—Public Works.

[*See* Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for 1909-1910.]

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue and expenditure.

211. The total Public Works revenue amounted to Rs. 2,11,913, an increase of Rs. 18,636 over that of the previous year. The total expenditure on the other hand was less by Rs. 6,47,288, amounting to Rs. 66,33,258.

IMPERIAL WORKS.

Expenditure

212. The expenditure under all heads was Rs. 2,49,546, being Rs. 149 less than in 1908-1909.

Military.

213. The principal works were the completion of new quarters for the Sergeant Instructor, Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles at Dacca, and the construction of an armoury for the Assam-Bengal Railway Volunteer Rifles at Pahartali.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Civil.

214. Extensions to the Post Office at Narayanganj, to the telegraph buildings at Chittagong, Saidpur and Shillong, and to the combined Post and Telepraph Office at Faridpur were completed. A residence for the Accountant General at Dacca and extensions to the Accountant-General's office in Shillong were also completed. Extensions to the Post Office at Dacca and the construction of a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Brahmanbaria were in progress.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

Expenditure.

215. The expenditure on Provincial Works under all heads was Rs. 52,59,848 as against Rs. 59,11,099 in 1908-1909.

Residences.

216. Special repairs to Government House, Shillong, were in hand, and considerable progress was made in the construction of the new Government Houses at Dacca and at Chittagong.

By the end of the year 25 residences for officials at Dacca were completed and four were in progress; 2 at Jalpaiguri, 1 at Chittagong, 1 at Barisal and quarters for two Munsifs at Gaibandha were finished during the year. Three properties at Rampur-Boalia and three in Shillong were purchased by Government as residences for officers. The construction of residences for the Deputy Commissioner and the Inspector of Schools at Jorhat was nearly finished.

Administration, Law and Justice.

217. The new Secretariat building at Dacca was almost completed. The new Kutchery building at Jorhat, the Sub-Deputy Collector's office at Kumargaon, a record-room for the new Civil Court at Dacca, a double Munsifi at South Raojan and a Subdivisional Court-house at Rajbari were finished during the year and various other buildings under this head were in progress.

Circuit-houses.

218. The Circuit-houses at Chittagong, Noakhali and Dinajpur were completed.

Education.

219. The electric installation in the Dacca College was finished and work on the Curzon Hall was nearly finished. Extensions to the Government High School at Shillong, the Cotton College at Gauhati and the Zilla Schools at Faridpur and Barisal were completed. The construction of a two-storied Muhammadan Boarding-house and a Common Room for the Rajshahi College at Rampur-Boalia, a Muhammadan Hostel at Dhubri and temporary school buildings at Pirozpur and Jhalakati were carried through. Of the several other works in progress, the principal were a physical laboratory for the Cotton College at Gauhati. Hindu and Muhammadan hostels for the Zilla School at Faridpur, a temporary High School at Bhola, and a Model Girls' School at Sylhet.

Jails.

220. A guard-house, enclosure wall, gate and tank were built for the new jail at Jorhat. The re-construction of Noakhali jail, improvements to the jails at Mymensingh, Barisal, Bogra and Faridpur, and to the sub-jail at Tangail were in progress, including a pipe-water installation in the Barisal jail. Materials were collected for the conversion of Comilla jail into a second-class Central Jail.

Police.

221. Thana buildings at Haflong, Gohpur, Sutia, Sibsagar, Karimganj and Balaganj in the Assam Circle were erected, while the police buildings in the new station of Jorhat, thana buildings at Ajmiriganj and Sunamganj and a building at Koriapur with staff quarters for an investigating centre were in progress. In Eastern Bengal, a combined thana and lock-up at Rangamati, and at Rampur-Boalia temporary buildings for a Training School for constables and an additional barrack were finished, while Police buildings at Dhunath and Mirzapur (Dacca) were under construction.

Medical.

222. The Post-mortem theatre and bone-room of the Dacca Medical School were completed, and the Vaccine Depôt at Shillong was improved. An additional ward in the Lunatic Asylum at Tezpur was nearly finished, and hospital buildings at Kolosib (Lushai Hills) were erected.

Excise.

223. Important improvements were carried out in the Central Distillery at Jorhat and 10 bonded warehouses were constructed in various parts of the Province, whilst 5 others were under construction.

Registration.

224. Extensions to the Sadr Registry Office at Dacca, and to the office of the Special Sub-Registrar at Comilla were built. Sub-Registry Offices at Kaliachak (Malda) and Surupkati (Barisal) were in progress.

Archæology.

225. The masjid at Kusumba in Rajshahi, and the two temples at Jaysagar (in Sibsagar) were repaired. The Bishnudole temple in Kamrup was undergoing repairs.

Miscellaneous.

226. The laboratory for the Central Farm at Manipur (Dacca) and two buildings for the Survey Office at Shillong were completed.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Communications.

227. The principal works either completed or in progress were the extension of the first 14 miles of the North Trunk road in North Lakhimpur; improving the Gauhati-Shillong road; constructing a steel bridge across the Umshirpi river on the Shillong-Cherra road; improving and metalling the Dimapur-Manipur road; improving the Kathiatoli-Amluki road; metalling the Nowgong-Kampur road; constructing and improving roads in the new station of Jorhat; replacing timber bridges in the Golaghat Subdivision by permanent ones; improving the Goramur road; metalling the Jaipur road; improving the Dhubri-Kachugaon road; constructing the Chapar, Sidli, Nalbari, Dhamdhuma, and Pandu feeder roads to the Eastern Bengal State Railway; constructing a wire-rope ferry across the Barak river at Badri on the Cachar-Manipur road; widening the Silchar-Hailakandi road; constructing a pontoon ferry over the Jaldaka river on the Tandu forest road; metalling the Hilli-Balurghat road; replacing timber bridges on the Barnimukh road by permanent ones; constructing the Sylhet-Peterganj and Shamshernagar-Kaileswar roads; constructing the Aijal-Sairang and improving the Aijal-Falam road and Loch's trace; constructing the Lungleh-Demagiri bridle-path and examining the anchorages of the Tuichong suspension bridge.

Dak Bungalows.

228. A new dâk bungalow at Chittagong was erected, the dâk bungalow at Dacca improved, and a building for a dâk bungalow at Barisal was acquired. Inspection bungalows at Paglarhat, Dumduma, Talap-Companyganj and Chalsa were in progress, and others at Badarpur, Sunamganj, Gosaingaon and Singramari-ghat were completed.

Road Surveys.

229. Surveys for an aerial ropeway between Mawsmai and Tharia, and for an alternative route between Cherra and Ishamati, and for a projected light railway between Utmar and Salutikar were finished. The survey and alignment of a road from Darranga to Dewangiri was carried out, and the survey for eight feeder roads to the Eastern Bengal State Railway, Gauhati Extension, were in progress.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

230. The most important works were the clearing and laying out of the new Civil Station of Dacca and the drainage and construction of new roads, as well as the laying out of the Amlapara. Improvements to the Shillong roads were also completed.

Water supply.

231. The sinking of tube wells at Chittagong by Messrs. Kilburn & Co., was finished. The artesian boring at Jorhat was abandoned, and test boring operations were carried out at Tezpur and Mangaldai.

Rivers.

232. The Gadadhar river was diverted into the Brahmaputra in order to prevent its encroachment on the town of Dhubri. River protection works were also carried out at Madaripur.

The dredging of the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers and of the Nuria and Mainakata shoals was carried out by Messrs. Kilburn & Co. Shoals were removed by bandaling in the Dhaleswari, Buriganga and Karnafuli rivers. The Gheor channel was surveyed and snags were removed from the Desang river, but with a similar work in the Subansiri no progress could be made owing to the want of a special snag boat.

The Darika bund and a diversion of the Dikhu bund were completed and a contribution of Rs. 14,000 was made by Government towards a new embankment on the left bank of the Dikrang river.

Silt experiments were carried out on the Brahmaputra, Ganges, Meghna and Barak rivers.

Contribution Works.

233. The Dacca conservancy tramway was completed; four masonry wells in Sylhet were in progress, and a building for the High School at Habiganj was finished. The construction of an office for the Civil Surgeon at Comilla, a dispensary at Feni, a Hindu Hostel for the Zilla School of Comilla, and a Girls' School at Noakhali were also undertaken.

Railways.

234. During the year 112 miles of the Gauhati Extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway were opened to traffic, bringing the total mileage in the Province up to 1927·05 miles distributed as follows:—

I. Eastern Bengal State Railway (certain sections)	868·50 miles.
II. Bengal-Duars Railway	152·96 „
III. Assam-Bengal Railway	770·84 „
IV. Jorhat State Railway	31·65 „
V. Dibru-Sadiya Railway (including Colliery Branch)	83·00 „
VI. Tezpur-Balipara Railway	20·10 „
Total	1927·05 „

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Eastern Bengal State Railway.

235. The Eastern Bengal State Railway is made up of mixed gauges and the total length in the province is 868¼ miles. The construction of a line, from Rangia, one of the stations on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, to Tangla, 24 miles, on the metre gauge, was sanctioned during the year. It will be of great advantage to the tea gardens, and to the country generally, in the Mangaldai subdivision of the Darrang district, which is badly provided with communications. The reconnaissance survey for a line from Shamganj to the Darrangiri coal-fields in the Garo Hills, 54 miles, and the detailed survey of the Singhjani-Fulchari line, about 25 miles, both on the metre gauge, were completed during the year.

Owing to the altered conditions, which the opening of the Sara bridge will bring about, the following projects were under consideration :—

1. A detailed survey for a line between Santahar and Malda or Nimasarai.
2. Construction of the Singhjani-Fulchari line.
3. A survey of a line between Nator and Rampur-Boalia and Godagari.
4. Investigation of the route which the Serajganj line should follow.

Bengal-Duars Railway.

236. The total length was 152·96 miles as in the previous year. The surveys of the lines from Bograkot to Sivok, 5·68 miles, and from Sivok to Tista bridge, 17 miles, were in progress.

Assam-Bengal Railway.

237. The total length open at the end of the year was 770·84 miles against 775·28 in 1908, a length of 4·44 miles being closed to traffic.

The construction of the Akhaura-Ashuganj Branch, 19·32 miles, was completed during the year. The sanctioned line from Kulaura to the Kusiara river, 16 miles, was not commenced.

The survey of a line from Bhairab (opposite Ashuganj) to Tangi on the Dacca-Mymensingh line, 38 miles, was carried out.

Jorhat State Railway.

238. The total direct capital outlay amounted to Rs. 9,52,588. The net earnings for the year amounted to Rs. 11,283 against Rs. 11,258 in 1908.

An agreement was made with the River Steam Navigation Company, Limited, for the interchange of tea traffic *viâ* Kokilamukh ghat.

Dibru-Sadia Railway.

239. The total capital outlay, excluding the Colliery branch, from commencement of construction to the end of December 1909 was Rs. 90,68,045, and the net earnings for the year amounted to Rs. 4,84,171 against Rs. 4,47,121 in 1908.

The extension from Talap station to Saikhoaghat, 8·52 miles, was in progress.

The total capital outlay on the Ledo-Tikak Margherita Colliery Branch was Rs. 16,94,069, remaining the same as in 1908. The net earnings for the year were Rs. 34,891 against Rs. 30,486 in the previous year.

Tezpur-Balipara Railway.

240. The total capital outlay amounted to Rs. 4,87,240, and the net earnings for the year to Rs. 23,618 as against Rs. 20,972 in 1908.

The payment of a subsidy of Rs. 5,000 annually to the Tezpur-Balipara Railway by the Tezpur Local Board was continued for a further term of 5 years with effect from 1st April 1909.

Light Railway surveys.

241. The survey report and estimate of the Kampur-Silghat Railway (Nowgong project), 52 miles in length, were received during the year.

Survey operations on the Juri-Hatikhira project (Longai Valley project) in Sylhet were in progress.

Surveys of the Hailakandi project (Sailtek-Lala Bazar), 24 miles, in Cachar, and of the Manumukh project (Srimangal to Manumukh), 22½ miles, in Sylhet, were sanctioned by the Government of India, but operations were not commenced.

ESTABLISHMENT.

Cost of establishment.

242. The total cost of the Public Works Establishment amounted to Rs. 10,57,011, being 25·12 per cent. of the outlay on works carried out by the Department.

Divisional and Circle changes.

243. With a view to greater efficiency in the supervision and execution of works the following re-arrangement of Circles and Divisions was recommended to the Government of India :—

Southern Circle (headquarters Dacca).

1. Dacca Division.
2. Dacca Special Works Division (temporary).
3. Chittagong Division.
4. Bakarganj Division.

Western Circle (headquarters Jalpaiguri).	1. Rajshahi Division. 2. Jalpaiguri Division. 3. Lower Assam Division.
Assam Circle (headquarters Shillong).	1. Khasi and Jaintia Hills Division. 2. Central Assam Division. 3. Lakhimpur Division. 4. Sibsagar Division. 5. Sylhet Division. 6. Cachar Division.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

(A) GROSS REVENUE.

244. The receipts and charges of this province during 1909-1910 are shown in the tables below. The figures given here do not in every case tally with the corresponding figures given in the paragraphs which deal with the principal heads separately, since the latter are taken from the annual reports of the departments concerned, so that apparent discrepancies are explained by the fact that the figures may refer to different periods, the departmental year not coinciding with the financial year.

Receipts.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Principal Heads of Revenue—			
I.—Land Revenue	52,66,453	1,50,04,608	2,02,71,061
II.—Opium	6,30,522	...	6,30,522
III.—Salt	13,26,822	...	13,26,822
IV.—Stamps	50,82,075	50,82,075	1,01,64,150
V.—Excise	36,53,799	36,53,799	73,07,598
VI.—Provincial Rates	...	16,61,688	16,61,688
VII.—Customs	1,12,779	.....	1,12,779
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	6,06,355	6,06,355	12,12,710
IX.—Forest	7,67,366	7,67,366	15,34,732
X.—Registration	...	9,59,199	9,59,199
XI.—Tributes	50,000	...	50,000
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue ...	1,74,96,171	2,77,35,090	4,52,31,261
B.—Interest—			
XII.—Interest	52	1,50,884	1,50,936
D.—Receipts by Civil Departments—			
XVIA.—Law and Justice—(Courts of Law) ...	...	4,00,907	4,00,907
XVIB.—Law and Justice—(Jails)	...	3,44,036	3,44,036
XVII.—Police	...	1,35,516	1,35,516
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	...	9,421	9,421
XIX.—Education	...	2,63,281	2,63,281
XX.—Medical	...	56,689	56,689
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	...	45,534	45,534
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments ...	...	12,55,384	12,55,384
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts—			
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	69,758	10,116	79,874
XXIII.—Stationary and Printing	1,622	15,547	17,169
XXV.—Miscellaneous	9,131	2,58,521	2,67,652
Total E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts. ...	80,511	2,84,184	3,64,695

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
H.—Railways—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
XXVI.—State Railways—(Gross Receipts) ...	...	95,895	95,895
Deduct—Working expenses	...	96,184	96,184
Net Railway Receipts	...	—289	—289
J.—Irrigation—			
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation	...	14	14
K.—Other Public Works—			
XXXI.—Civil Works	2,645	3,25,450	3,28,095
Total K.—Other Public Works	2,645	3,25,450	3,28,095
L.—Military Receipts—			
XXXIV.—Military Works	9,559	...	9,559
Grand Total	1,75,88,938	2,97,50,717	4,73,39,655

Expenditure.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
A.—Direct demands on the Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	37,306	42,470	79,776
2.—Assignments and Compensations	63,510	33,941	97,451
3.—Land Revenue	15,80,757	29,04,990	44,85,747
5.—Salt	24,519	.....	24,519
6.—Stamps	2,09,861	2,09,861	4,19,722
7.—Excise	1,45,080	1,45,081	2,90,161
8.—Provincial Rates	.....	31,796	31,796
9.—Customs	42,525	.....	42,525
10.—Assessed Taxes	19,607	19,607	39,214
11.—Forest	5,06,271	5,06,270	10,12,541
12.—Registration	.....	6,14,769	6,14,769
Total A.—Direct demands on the Revenue ...	26,29,436	45,08,785	71,38,221
B.—Interest—			
13.—Interest on ordinary debt	.....	1,28,812	1,28,812
14.—Interest on other obligations	12,747	.....	12,747
Total B.—Interest	12,747	1,28,812	1,41,559

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments—			
18.—General Administration	2,52,861	12,29,845	14,82,706
19A.—Law and Justice (Courts of Law)	.....	44,68,921	44,68,921
19B. –Law and Justice—(Jails)	.....	9,24,190	9,24,190
20.—Police	.....	50,76,495	50,76,495
21.—Ports and Pilotage	.....	1,07,009	1,07,009
22.—Education	.....	23,40,377	23,40,377
23.—Ecclesiastical	28,436	.....	28,435
24.—Medical	.....	10,23,169	10,23,169
25.—Political	.....	89,953	89,953
26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	9,584	4,54,070	4,63,654
Total D.—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments...	2,90,880	157,14,029	160,04,909
E.—Miscellaneous—			
17.—Territorial and Political pensions	9,643	.....	9,643
28.—Civil furlough and absentee allowance ...	.....	.....	.....
29.—Superannuation allowances and pensions ...	1,516	7,34,541	7,36,057
30.—Stationery and printing	.....	8,53,607	8,53,607
32.—Miscellaneous	22,770	5,93,878	6,16,648
Total E.—Miscellaneous ...	33,929	21,82,026	22,15,955
F.—Famine Relief and Insurance—			
33.—Famine Relief	.....	27,111	27,111
35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works ...	1,575	.....	1,575
Total F.—Famine Relief and Insurance— ...	1,575	27,111	28,686
H.—Railway Revenue Accounts—			
40.—Subsidized Companies	3,413	369	3,782
41.—Miscellaneous Railway expenditure	.....	20,576	20,576
Total H.—Railway Revenue Accounts ...	3,413	20,945	24,358
J.—Irrigation—			
43.—Minor Works and Navigation	.....	1,17,152	1,17,152
K.—Other Public Works—			
44.—Construction of Railway	.....	18,671	18,671
45.—Civil Works	1,72,045	64,83,916	66,55,961
Total K.—Other Public Works ...	1,72,045	65,02,587	66,74,632
L.—Military Services—			
47.—Military Works	74,589	.....	74,589
Grand total ...	32,18,614	2,92,01,447	3,24,20,061

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure.

—	1908-09.			1909-10.			1909-10 compared with 1908-09.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or Net expenditure —.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or Net expenditure —.	Increase of Revenue.	Decrease of Revenue.	Increase of expenditure	Decrease of expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I (a)—Principal Heads of Revenue.	4,44,12,880	69,56,260	+3,74,56,620	4,52,31,261	71,38,221	+3,80,93,040	8,18,381	...	1,81,961	...
II—Departmental Heads:—										
(b) Interest	1,39,914	1,20,554	+19,360	1,50,936	1,41,559	+9,377	11,022	...	21,005	...
(d) Civil Department ...	13,34,078	1,59,23,459	—1,45,89,381	12,55,384	1,60,04,909	—1,47,49,525	...	78,694	81,450	...
(e) Miscellaneous ...	4,43,828	2:,61,550	—17,17,722	3,64,695	2,2,15,955	—18,51,260	...	79,133	54,405	...
(f) Famine Relief and Insurance.	...	35,345	—35,345	...	28,686	—28,686	...	...	...	6,659
(h) Railway Revenue Accounts.	18,632	20,500	—1,868	—289	24,358	—24,647	...	18,921	3,858	...
(i) and (j) Irrigation ...	127	57,208	—57,081	14	1,17,152	—1,17,138	...	113	59,944	...
(k) Other Public Works	2,94,018	72,67,408	—69,73,390	3,28,095	66,74,632	—63,46,537	34,077	...	...	5,92,776
(l) Military Services ...	5,965	69,492	—63,527	9,559	74,589	—65,030	3,594	...	5,097	...
Total Departmental heads ...	22,36,562	2,56,55,516	—2,34,18,954	21,08,394	2,52,81,840	—231,73,446	48,693	1,76,861	2,25,759	5,99,435
Grand Total ...	4,66,49,442	3,26,11,776	+1,40,37,666	4,73,39,655	3,24,20,061	+149,19,594	8,67,074	1,76,861	4,07,720	5,99,435

245. The expenditure of the year compares as follows with that of 1908-1909 :— Land Revenue.

		Increase.	Decrease.
(1) Charges of District Administration	...	...	...
(2) Management of Government estates	...	...	4,000
(3) Commission on Collections ...	...	41,000	...
(4) Survey and Settlement ...	...	121,000	...
(5) Land Records ...	...	...	28,000
(6) Allowance to District and Village Officers	...	...	2,000

Under Management of Government Estates the expenditure on miscellaneous public improvements and commission on collection of rents was much smaller than that of 1907-1908. The actuals under Land Records for 1907-1908 were very high owing to the charges incurred for the construction of the Director of Land Records' launch, hence the decrease under that head. The actuals under Survey and Settlement are not yet final and the adjustments which still remain to be made will reduce the actuals under that head. Compared with the budget estimate for 1909-1910 there were savings under all six heads: under District Administration Rs. 99,000; under Government Estates, Rs. 2,000; under Commission on Collections, Rs. 22,000; under Survey and Settlement, Rs. 85,000; under Land Records, Rs. 14,000, and under Allowance to District and Village Officers, Rs. 2,000. In the case of Commission on collections the estimate allowed for the collection of arrears of 1908-1909, but although the arrears were collected, some portion of the commission payable was not claimed until after the close of the year.

246. The details by minor heads of the actuals and estimates under this head are shown below in round figures:—

Minor heads.	Actuals, 1908-1909.	Budget, 1909-1910.	Actuals, 1909-1910.	Comparison with actuals of 1908-1909.	Comparison with budget of 1909-1910.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Salary of the Lieutenant- Governor	1,06,000	96,000	96,000	—10,000	...
Staff and Household of the Lieutenant-Governor ...	56,000	66,000	45,000	—11,000	—21,000
Expenditure from Contract Allowance	23,000	25,000	22,000	—1,000	— 3,000
Tour Expenses	8,000	7,000	15,000	+7,000	+8,000
Legislative Council	5,000	17,000	4,000	—1,000	—13,000
Civil Secretariat	4,24,000	4,10,000	4,03,000	—21,000	—7,000
Board of Revenue	2,30,000	2,25,000	2,29,000	—1,000	+4,000
Commissioners	3,52,000	3,42,000	3,47,000	—5,000	+5,000
Civil Office of Account and Audit (Imperial)	2,28,000	2,44,000	2,53,000	+25,000	+9,000
Ditto ditto (Provincial)	38,000	41,000	40,000	+2,000	—1,000
Inspector-General of Stamps, Registration and Excise, etc.	29,000	29,000	29,000	...	...
Total	14,99,000	15,02,000	14,83,000	—16,000	—19,000

The actuals under the head "Salary of the Lieutenant-Governor" for 1908-1909 were high on account of payment of the leave allowances of the Lieutenant-Governor. Under "Staff and Household," the expenditure from the furniture grant was smaller than that in the previous year. The saving under this head was due to a provision of Rs. 17,000 for the purchase of a new motor-car for the Lieutenant-Governor not having been utilised, and also to smaller expenditure from the furniture grant. The increase under "Tour Expenses" is due chiefly to the large amount of travelling allowance drawn by the Secretariat Staff. The provision made under "Legislative Council" for increased expenditure in connection with the expanded Council was not utilised. The variations under "Secretariat" were due to smaller outlays under "Service Postage and Telegram charges," "Office expenses and miscellaneous" and "Purchase of books." The excesses under "Board of Revenue" and "Commissioners" were caused by leave allowances of officers and clerks. The excess under Account Offices was caused by leave allowances of clerks and inadequate provision for hill allowance. The charges for establishment under this head were larger than those in the previous year.

(B) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

SECTION 1.—Land Revenue.

Land Revenue.

247. The ordinary land revenue demand for the year amounted to Rs. 2,02,17,232, out of which Rs. 1,94,11,138 were collected and Rs. 52,808 remitted on account of diluvion, local calamities and relinquishment of holdings. As compared with the previous year there were increases of Rs. 2,48,401 in the demand, of Rs. 3,56,557 in the collections and of Rs. 6,363 in remissions. The collections under Miscellaneous Land Revenue amounted to Rs. 8,34,589 against the revised figure of Rs. 7,89,080 in 1908-1909, while remissions declined from Rs. 8,173 to Rs. 6,003. There was therefore an increase of over 4 lakhs in the total Land Revenue of the year.

SECTION 2.—Sources of Revenue other than land.

Customs.

248. The customs receipts of Chittagong decreased from Rs. 10,77,362 to Rs. 9,47,227. This decrease in revenue was due to a smaller clearance of salt.

Opium.

249. The receipt on account of opium amounted to Rs. 6,30,522, as compared with Rs. 6,68,826 in the preceding year.

250. Imports, excluding those of duty-paid salt by rail amounted to 1,775,392 maunds or 4·85 per cent. less than in the previous year and clearances decreased by 281,848 maunds. The decrease is attributed mainly to the importation of duty-paid salt by some wholesale vendors from Calcutta and to the closure of an inland bonded ware-house in Bakarganj. Imports from the United Kingdom decreased by 37,183 maunds or 52·7 per cent., from Spain by 148,198 maunds or 56·2 per cent. and from Aden by 137,841 maunds or 23·9 per cent. There was an increase of 20,279 maunds, or 37·8 per cent. in the amount imported from Hamburg and Bremen, and 148,962 maunds were imported direct from Port Said, which accounted for the decrease in salt imported from Spain. Duty-paid salt is conveyed to different districts by water and rail. The importation of salt by rail amounted to 1,272,719 maunds. No information is available of the quantity introduced by water. The average wholesale price per maund in bazars was Rs. 2-0-8 against Rs. 2-2-5 in 1908-1909 and Rs. 2-5-0 in 1907-1908. The price has fallen in almost all districts and the consumer has greatly benefited by the reduction of the duty to Re. 1 per maund. The net revenue was Rs. 17,43,328, which was less than that of the previous year by 13·79 per cent. The reduction of the duty has encouraged the importation of duty-paid salt direct from Calcutta. Salt.

251. The total excise demand for the year was Rs. 72,90,638 against Rs. 71,39,736 in the previous year, an increase of 2·12 per cent. The percentage realized increased by 3·85 per cent., the total receipts amounting to Rs. 73,05,093 as compared with Rs. 70,34,031 in 1908-1909. There was an increase of two lakhs in the revenue from *ganja* owing to an abundant crop and to general agricultural prosperity. The receipts from foreign liquor rose by Rs. 38,634, mainly owing to better settlements. There was a decrease of about half a lakh each under the heads country liquor and opium, owing chiefly in the former case to the temporary effects of the introduction of a new system into the Rajshahi Division, in the latter to the increase in the treasury price of opium and to special causes in the Assam Valley. The settlements made for 1910-1911 show an increase of 3¼ lakhs in demand. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,91,742 against Rs. 2,92,879 in the previous year. Excise.

The contract supply system was extended to the Rajshahi Division during the year but the financial results were disappointing. It was also extended to the plains mauzas of the Garo Hills district. Three patrol parties consisting of 8 peons and 3 jemadars working in Sylhet mitigated to some extent the smuggling of outstill liquor from Hill Tippera. A Sub-Deputy Collector was appointed to have charge of the Excise Department in Jalpaiguri, where a special officer was needed to control the operations for the prevention of smuggling from Bhutan and Cooch Behar. There was a general revision of the treasury prices of opium throughout Eastern Bengal and Hill Districts of Assam, the average rise in the price per seer being Rs. 3·23. A further reduction was made in the number of retail licenses, 217 shops being abolished. A new Excise Act for the province was passed by the Provincial Legislative Council.

252. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court Fees Acts amounted to Rs. 1,01,63,928 as compared with Rs. 99,39,964 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 2,23,964. The total charges during the year amounted to Rs. 2,59,235 against Rs. 2,62,410 in 1908-1909. These figures exclude the cost of stamped and plain paper supplied from the Central Depot, which amounted to Rs. 2,01,567 as compared with Rs. 1,96,975 in the previous year. The total number of cases dealt with by the Civil Courts and the amount of duty and penalty realized by them rose from 1,804 and Rs. 10,653 to 1,806 and Rs. 11,359, respectively. There was, however, a decrease of Rs. 6,273 in the amount of duty and penalty realized by the Revenue Courts, though the number of cases dealt with by them shows a slight increase. There was a decrease of 9 in the number of stamp prosecutions, but an increase of Rs. 38-8-0 in the amount of fines imposed. Of the cases of the valuation of estates for the issue of probates or letters of administration 71·5 per cent. were enquired into against 72·6 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion borne by the deficit duty realized to the amount originally paid was 52·9 per cent. as compared with 61·7 per cent. in 1908-1909. Stamps.

253. The total income-tax receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 12,08,632 and the total charges to Rs. 35,828. The total collections show an increase of 2·3 per cent., with an increase of 3·6 per cent. in the number of assessees in all parts. The net revenue only increased by 1·9 per cent. against 5·6 per cent. in the previous year. The total final demand for the year was Rs. 10,11,112 of which 98·8 per cent. was collected. Income-tax

254. The gross revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 15,05,153, a decrease of Rs. 41,221 compared with the previous year. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 9,66,836, Forest Revenue.

an increase of Rs. 116. The surplus decreased by Rs. 48,185. The revenue would have been higher but for (1) non-acceptance by Assam-Bengal Railway of sleepers lying at Gauhati since the previous year, (2) a slack market for *sal* logs, (3) realisation of a smaller amount of royalty on elephants, and (4) low prices for, and therefore less exportation of, lac.

(C) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

SECTION 3.—Provincial Finance.

Receipts and expenditure.

255. The receipts and expenditure are compared below with those of the previous year :—

Year.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1908-1909	35,58,417	2,71,88,491	2,95,46,178	12,00,730
1909-1910	12,00,730	2,97,50,717	2,92,01,447	17,50,000

The Provincial Service Accounts for 1909-1910 opened with a balance of Rs. 12,00,730 and closed with a balance of Rs. 17,50,000, showing an apparent surplus of Rs. 5,49,270. The opening balance includes the sum of Rs. 730, given by the Government of India as a contribution on account of Royal bonus, adjusted under the Provincial heads in the first six months of the accounts for 1909-1910. In the Budget a deficit of Rs. 31,07,000 was estimated, the resultant closing balance being minus Rs. 19,07,000. But in order to enable the Local Government to close their accounts with the prescribed minimum balance of Rs. 12,00,000, the Government of India have sanctioned a contribution from the Imperial to the Provincial revenues. So far as can at present be ascertained, this contribution will amount to Rs. 31,63,000. This means that the actual deficit exceeded the Budget estimate by Rs. 56,000. Besides the above contribution given to cover the deficit, the Government of India have ordered a further contribution of Rs. 5,50,000 from the Imperial to the Provincial revenues to enable the Provincial Government to discharge their obligations to the Port Commissioners of Chittagong towards the improvement of the Port. The closing balance is by this contribution raised to Rs. 17,50,000.

In the Revised Estimate the assignment to be given to Provincial Revenues to keep the prescribed minimum closing balance was estimated at Rs. 36,90,000. The difference of Rs. 5,27,000 is due to expenditure being less than the estimate under a number of heads.

Compared with the actuals of 1908-1909 the receipts, excluding the assignments from Imperial revenues, were better by Rs. 4,62,000, which occurred entirely under Civil. The expenditure was smaller than that of the previous year by Rs. 3,45,000. A decrease of Rs. 5,74,000 occurred in the Public Works Department, which was partly counterbalanced by an excess of Rs. 2,29,000 under Civil.

Compared with the Budget Estimate of the year the actuals (excluding the Imperial assignments) were less by Rs. 3,19,000 on the receipt side and by Rs. 2,38,000 on the payment side. The decrease on the receipt side occurred under all the heads except Land Revenue, Interest, Courts of Law, Education, Miscellaneous and Civil Works, the most important of deficiences having occurred under Provincial Rates (Rs. 90,000), Forest (Rs. 84,000), Stamps (Rs. 68,000) and Registration (Rs. 66,000). Expansion of revenue was over-estimated in all these cases.

The savings in expenditure occurred chiefly under Land Revenue (Rs. 1,40,000), Jails (Rs. 2,77,000), Police (Rs. 2,84,000), Medical (Rs. 1,35,000), Miscellaneous (Rs. 1,20,000) and Famine Relief (Rs. 2,74,000), but the expenditure under Stationery and Printing exceeded the budget by Rs. 3,49,000 and that under Civil Works by Rs. 6,34,000. The savings indicated above are mainly due to effect not having been given during the year to the proposed reorganisation of ministerial establishments under Collectors, Magistrates, etc.; fall in the price of food-grains

lessening expenditure under grain compensation allowance and rations; smaller purchase of raw materials for jail industries and absence of famine relief operations. The excess under Stationery and Printing and Civil Works was due to inadequate provision for Stationery, etc., obtained for the Dacca Jail Press and for Public Works charges generally.

SECTION 4.—Local Funds.

Local Funds.

256. The following statement shows the receipts and charges during the year of those Local Funds of which an account is still submitted to Government. The Funds were all solvent and closed the year with good balances:—

Names of Funds.	Opening balance on the 1st April 1909.	Receipt during the year 1909-1910.	Total.	Expenditure during the year 1909-1910.	Closing balance on the 31st March 1910.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	14,56,200	32,14,899	46,71,099	35,24,729	11,46,370
Local Funds	5,85,599	15,20,070	21,05,669	16,73,058	4,32,611
Municipalities	1,65,793	10,58,081	12,23,874	10,20,090	2,03 784
Cantonments	1,048	16,011	17,059	15,807	1,252
District Chaukidari Reward Fund ...	57,223	39,365	96,588	22,120	74,468
Port Trust Deposits	68,930	2,52,210	3,11,140	2,95,782	15,358
Hospital Port Dues Fund	2,825	8,560	11,385	10,589	796
Assam Williamson Education Fund ...	9,436	3,920	13,356	2,829	10,527
Medical and Charitable Funds	11,013	23,287	34,300	24,237	10,063
Town and Bazar Funds	27,175	41,600	68,775	45,439	23,336
Total	23,75,242	61,78,003	85,53,245	66,34,680	19,18,565

SECTION 5.—Road and Public Works Cesses.

[*See* Report on the Provincial Rates Operations for the revenue year 1909-1910.]

Road and Public Works Cesses.

257. In Eastern Bengal, excepting the Chittagong Hill Tracts where the Cess Act is not in force, the Road and Public Works Cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on immoveable property. In Assam the local rate was assessed at the rate of one anna per rupee of the annual value of all land. The current demand in Eastern Bengal, Rs. 34,07,838, showed an increase of Rs 1,64,741 over that of the previous year, mainly owing to the fact that the annual cess payable by Government for Government Estates was made payable in a lump sum in June 1910 instead of *kist* by *kist*. The increase in the demand accounts for the falling off in the percentage, 96·02 against 100·39, of total collections on current demand. Remissions and reductions amounted to Rs. 3,159 against Rs. 2,209 in 1908-1909. The outstanding balance at the end of the year was Rs. 4,91,867, or 12·9 per cent. of the total demand against Rs. 3,77,116 or 10·4 per cent. in the previous year. In Assam the current demand rose to Rs. 7,56,699 owing to new settlements and re-settlements. The total collections amounted to 108·92 per cent. as against 114·06 per cent. in the previous year. There was a slight increase in the number of certificates filed in Eastern Bengal, but a continued decrease in the issue of coercive processes in Assam. There was a slight decrease in the precentage of objections to certificates. The revaluation of the Mymensingh district was completed and general revaluation proceedings were in progress in Bakarganj, Chittagong, and Malda, partial ones in Noakhali and Sylhet.

SECTION 6.—Education. Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 7.—Municipal Revenue.

258. The subject of Municipal income and expenditure has been discussed in Section 8, Municipal Administration, Chapter III, of this Report.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION 1.—Vital Statistics.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

Plains' Districts.

259. For the purpose of vital statistics the ratios are calculated on a population of 29,812, 735, the population of the Hill Districts being excluded. The provincial birth-rate for the year was 40·46 per mille, a slight decrease on that of 1908 (41·14) but still above the quinquennial rate of 39·12. It is higher than the rate of all other provinces except the Central Provinces (51·63). The birth-rate was 26·72 in towns as against 40·76 in rural areas, showing a slight increase and a slight decrease, respectively, on the corresponding figures for 1908. The death-rate for the province was 33·89 per mille, an increase of 3·15 over that of 1908 and 2·12 in excess of the average for the previous five years. The mortality from fevers, which corresponded generally with the high rainfall, and was 2·06 in excess of the quinquennial average, was chiefly responsible for this, but the increase in mortality from small-pox is particularly noticeable. The death-rate of this province in 1909 was exceeded only by that of the United Provinces (37·34). The increase of the death-rate took place both in urban (23·70) and rural areas (34·11), but was more noticeable in the latter, the corresponding figures for 1908 being 22·23 and 30·92, respectively. The ratios of mortality from the chief diseases were fevers 24·56, cholera 2·40, small-pox ·79 (as against ·24 for previous 10 years), dysentery and diarrhoea ·87. Two cases of plague were reported during the year, in which both patients died. The average price of rice was 9 seers to the rupee, a further fall compared with that of 1908, which was about 8 seers 1 chittak to the rupee. It is difficult to trace a connection between the price of rice and the birth-rate.

Hill Districts.

260. In all the Hill Districts, except Lushai, the system of registration is very imperfect. In the North Cachar Hills and the Chittagong Hill Tracts it is not attempted at all. For the Khasi and Jaintia, Naga, Garo and Lushai Hills districts the birth-rates during 1909 were 29·79, 18·75, 32·15 and 38·33, respectively, showing a decrease in all cases except that of the Garo Hills. The death-rates were 32·73, 25·54, 34·69 and 37·93, respectively, against 36·02, 24·89, 25·94 and 43·59 in 1908.

SECTION 2.—Immigration and Labour Inspection.

[*See* Resolution on Immigrant Labour in the Assam Districts of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1910.]

General.

261. The labour force dealt with in this report is that imported for employment on tea gardens in Assam, in the oil-refinery at Digboi, in coal-mines and in certain saw-mills. The labour employed on railways and temporary cold-weather labourers are excluded.

A resolution from the Assam and Surma Valley Branches of the Indian Tea Association asked the Bengal Government to close the Presidency Division and Howrah district to recruitment by contractors. This could not be granted in entirety, but the Howrah and Sambalpur districts were closed. There has been some friction over the desertion of coolies to Hill Tippera, but the appointment of a Political Agent at Agartala will, it is hoped, improve the situation.

The area under tea cultivation rose from 344,916 to 346,658 acres.

Health.

262. The transit of immigrants was attended with remarkably little mortality; only 45 deaths occurred, 38 of these being due to cholera. While the death-rate fell, the birth-rate rose, and wages of all classes slightly improved. The number of gardens on the unhealthy list fell from 63 to 31.

Labour Force.

263. The total strength of the labour force at the close of the year was 758,319, an increase of 2481 over the previous year. Of the 457,639 adults only 26,778 were indentured under Act VI of 1901. While the adult labour force has gradually risen from 404,350 in 1903 to 457,639 in 1909-1910, the percentage indentured under the above mentioned Act has continuously and steadily declined from 20·8 per cent. to 5·9. This replacement of Act by non-Act labour has been brought about not only by the withdrawal of the right to enter into local contracts, but by the abstention on the part of many employers from taking recourse to Act VI. The percentage of children was 39·6 of the total strength. Of the Act labourers 46·13 per cent. were women and of the non-Act 49·82. Nearly three-quarters of the

adults belonged to Chota Nagpur, the Santhal Parganas and the plains districts of the United Provinces and Bengal. The adult number of immigrants during the year showed a considerable decrease on the previous year owing to good harvests in the recruiting districts, but it is significant that even under normal conditions the number exceeds that of any year previous to 1907-1908.

264. Act XIII was freely used and its popularity in no way declined. In some districts the agreements are usually oral, in others written. Complaints are still made that the Act does not give employers enough power to compel performance of the contract, but much has been done to prevent enticement by concerted action among the managers. Act XIII of 1859.

265. Good relations were maintained between employers and employed and there were only 10 cases of riot in all. Desertions of Act VI-labourers fell from 3,023 to 2,067. The relations between planters and villagers are reported to have been generally excellent. The number of gardens liable to inspection rose from 347 to 394 and 389 were actually inspected. At the close of the year 164,121 acres (11,124 more than in 1908) of Government land were settled with time-expired coolies. In addition to the land held direct from Government large areas are held by ex-coolies as sub-tenants. Miscellaneous.

SECTION 3.—Charitable Dispensaries.

[*See* the Dispensary Returns of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

266. There were 522 dispensaries at work during the year, but as 18 were closed against 17 opened, 521 remained open at its end. The total number of patients treated during the year again shows an increase, probably due to a growing appreciation of the value of medical aid. Of the 3,466,068 patients treated in 1909 as against 3,271,413 in 1908, there was a slight decrease in the number of in-patients (from 26,246 in 1908 to 25,755), which is attributed to better public health and the admission of a smaller number of police patients, but in some districts the number of in-patients showed a marked increase. Of those treated 15,400 were discharged cured, 3,682 discharged relieved, 3,448 otherwise, while 2,094, or 8·13 per cent. died in hospital. The corresponding figures for 1908 were 15,255, 3,453, 3,547, and 2,162, respectively. The number of out-patients treated was 3,440,313, an increase of 195,146 on the previous year. The daily average attendance increased by 1,497 persons. There were considerably increased admissions for malarial fever and larger admissions under small-pox, dysentery, cholera, dyspepsia, diarrhœa, and diseases of the eye, ear and nose. Dispensaries.

The number of police hospitals remained the same as last year, but the number of patients treated rose from 42,177 to 45,666. The greatest number were treated for malarial fever; there was a considerable increase in the number treated for worms. In the two Public Works Department dispensaries 8,073 patients were treated, and in non-aided private dispensaries 620,456 patients were treated as against 611,379 in 1908. In mission dispensaries 45,441 patients were treated.

The total number of surgical operations performed in State public, Local Fund and private-aided dispensaries was 79,889 as against 77,273 in 1908; of these 76,929 were discharged cured and 131 died.

267. The number of patients treated at *hats* on market days increased from 110,028 in 1908 to 133,033 in 1909. Over two-thirds of these were treated at *hats* in Assam. Treatment of patients at *hats*.

268. There were 17 lepers in the asylum at the opening of the year, and 13 were admitted during the year. The number of those "discharged relieved" was 9 and of those discharged "otherwise" 2. The number of deaths was 4 as against 6 in 1908. The total expenditure exclusive of establishment charges was Rs. 1,392 against Rs. 1,462 in 1908. The treatment of leprosy by injection of Nastine was tried with satisfactory results and proved so far the best form of treatment used. Sylhet Leper Asylum.

SECTION 4.—Lunatic Asylums.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Lunatic Asylums in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909: Statistics of British India, Part V.]

269. There were 486 lunatics under confinement at the opening of the year as against 474 at the beginning of 1908. Including re-admissions, there were 165 fresh admissions during the year, 143 being males and 22 females. There were 57 discharges (against 63 in 1908), 42 being discharged cured and 15, who improved, being made over to friends. Three lunatics escaped and were not recaptured. Of those Asylum population.

admitted during the year, 66, and of those re-admitted, 4, were criminal lunatics. The proportion of males to females admitted during the year was 6·5 to 1. Exactly twice as many were Hindus as Muhammadans. The majority were of the cultivating and labouring classes.

Forms and causes of insanity.

270. Mania accounted for the greatest number of admissions, 111, followed by melancholia 41. There was one case of dementia, 1 of delusional insanity and 8 undiagnosed. Recoveries and deaths were 27 and 51, respectively, among those confined for mania; 7 and 14 among those confined for melancholia. The causes could only be ascertained in 62 cases admitted. In 15 cases insanity was due to *ganja* smoking, 11 to hereditary influences and in 12 to epilepsy.

Health.

271. The number of admissions to hospital was 315 as against 468 in 1908. There were 69 deaths, due mostly to tubercle or to bowel complaints.

Finance.

272. The cost per lunatic, both at Dacca and Tezpur, was less than in 1908, being Rs. 107-4-2 at Dacca and Rs. 111-12-6 at Tezpur as against Rs. 117-1-10 and Rs. 119-4-2 in 1908. There was a slight increase in establishment at Dacca, owing to the appointment of a medical assistant of a higher grade, and in superintendence at Tezpur where the allowance was increased with the capacity of the asylum.

Accommodation.

273. There was slight overcrowding at Dacca, but serious overcrowding at Tezpur. Proposals for alterations at the latter asylum are under the consideration of Government.

SECTION 5.—Sanitation.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909.]

Sanitary works.

274. The income of municipalities during the year amounted to Rs. 21,30,691, nearly 2 lakhs in excess of last year, largely owing to grants by Government. The expenditure of municipalities on sanitation increased by over two lakhs, *viz.*, from Rs. 11,48,210 to Rs. 13,54,434, mainly under the heads of construction and maintenance of roads, water-supply and drainage. The average percentage of income spent on sanitation was 50·48 as compared with 47·94 in 1908. English Bazar, Shillong, Dacca, Dibrugarh, Dhubri, Jhalakati and Rangpur, all spent over 60 per cent. of their incomes on sanitation and twelve other towns spent over 50 per cent. All other towns spent over 20 per cent. except Barpeta which spent only 9·42 per cent. At Dacca the surface drainage scheme for the new Civil Station was still in progress at the close of the year; the remodelling of the water-works and the conservancy tramway project have both been completed. No further progress has been made with regard to the new municipal market. At Chittagong the two 6″ tube wells arranged for in 1908 were sunk and a discharge of over 15,000 gallons per hour was obtained from one and is anticipated from the other. Large sums are spent annually on keeping this town free from jungle. At Shillong estimates for increasing the water-supply were sanctioned by Government and a scheme for still further increasing it is under consideration. At Rangpur the drainage surveys were in progress and at English Bazar a drainage scheme was completed at a cost of Rs. 21,049. At Nator a scheme for improving the water-supply was sanctioned, and also one at Mymensingh. At Nowgong a drainage scheme to cost Rs. 5,380 was sanctioned. A combined drainage and water-supply scheme for Silchar, and a revised water-works scheme for Barisal are under consideration. During the year a sum of Rs. 5,34,227 was spent from Provincial Funds on sanitary works and Local and District Boards spent Rs. 2,82,230 chiefly on the improvement of the water-supply in rural areas. Rs. 2,02,444 were spent by private individuals on sanitary works.

Sale of quinine.

275 During the year the Government of Bengal revised their arrangements for the sale of the drug and as this province depends on Bengal for its supply, the Local Government was obliged to accept the new scheme. The quantity in each pice packet was raised from 7 to 10 grains. Uncoated 3⅓-grain tablets of quinine sulphate were also made available. No change was made in the rate at which the quinine was supplied to the retailers, and while the Government had to pay Rs. 1-15-6 for a parcel of 10-grain pice packets, the retailers still got it at Re. 1-3 per parcel, and their commission was only reduced by 6 pies. Government in consequence suffered a heavy loss. The total amount of quinine sold was 3,737,699 pice doses as against 3,428,051 in 1908 and 1,937,286 in 1907. It is remarkable that of the 11 districts which showed a smaller percentage of sale during the year, 6 have the highest quinquennial death-rates from fever. The considerable free distribution of quinine on tea gardens by managers has probably something to do with the smallness of sale in Assam, but considering the prevalence of malaria in the province generally the amount of quinine sold is still very small, and there is still a deep-rooted prejudice against its use. The

Post offices remain by far the most effective agencies of sale. Meanwhile the memorandum by Doctor Bentley on quinine distribution was under consideration and radical changes are recommended. In place of the pice-packet system it is proposed to sell "treatments" of 20 four-grain tablets at 3½ annas each in parcels of 10, the retailer making a profit of 9 annas per parcel. Special "treatments" of tannate of quinine or some other more or less tasteless salt mixed with an attractive flavouring agent are recommended for children, and in order that the very poor may not be excluded from the benefit of this "treatment" system it is proposed to make provision for free distribution by special agency in areas severely affected by malaria.

There was no outbreak of any epidemic disease at the Port of Chittagong nor among the 150,000 pilgrims who assembled at the Nangalband *mela* to bathe in the Brahmaputra.

Immigration.

276. The total number of immigrants passing through Goalundo to the Assam and Surma Valley tea gardens was 46,075 as compared with 84,022 in 1908, and an average of 28,367 for 1904-1907. Owing to the high incidence of cholera among these coolies in 1908 the Sanitary Commissioner was given a free hand in improving existing arrangements. The post of Travelling Inspector of Emigrants was revived, nine Hospital Assistants appointed to various depôts, and the depôts and hospitals were put into repair. A cholera hospital was constructed at Chandpur, and vaccine and lancets distributed to doctor babus on the steamers for the vaccination, as far as possible of all unprotected coolies and children. The result of these measures is to be seen in the comparatively low death-rate from cholera recorded in the labour districts.

SECTION 6.—Vaccination.

[*See* the Vaccination Returns of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909-1910; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

Vaccination.

277. Vaccination was carried on by 1,164 departmental vaccinators of whom 292 were paid and 872 licensed. There were 1,457,054 persons vaccinated during the year, of whom 162,903 were re-vaccination cases. This shows an increase of 7,396 operations over 1908. There were 22,289 deaths from small-pox during the year, giving a ratio of ·72 per mille as against ·39 of the previous year. Vaccination was pushed on vigorously in affected localities and the number of vaccinators and inspecting officers increased where necessary. Glycerine vaccine prepared by the Shillong Vaccine Depôt was used exclusively. There was an increase of 971 operations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and 938 Nagas and 1,127 Abors were vaccinated. This is the first time that Nagas and Abors living outside the Inner Line have been vaccinated. In Tippera also distinct progress was made in extending vaccination among the Gurushatyas and the Ferazi Muhammadans, who are strongly opposed to its practice.

The total cost of the Department during the year amounted to Rs. 1,13,999, as compared with Rs. 1,10,614 in 1908-1909. Provincial Funds contributed Rs. 90,804, Local Funds Rs. 16,215, Municipal Funds Rs. 5,131 and the Native States of Manipur and Hill Tippera Rs. 1,849. The average cost of each successful vaccination was 1 anna 4 pies as against 1 anna 3 pies in 1908-1909.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—General System of Public Instruction.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, Pages 185-190.]

SECTION 2.—Education.

[*See* General Report on Public Instruction in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1909-1910; Statistics of British India, Part VII.]

General.

278. The number of public institutions declined by 593 against an increase of 1,413 in the previous year, while the number of pupils increased by 3,736 only as against the enormous increase of 81,797 in the year preceding. Private institutions decreased in number as well as in the number of pupils attending them. The number of institutions, public and private, was 25,776 with 9,54,883 pupils. The increase, particularly of Muhammadans, in the pupils attending English and Girls' Schools was remarkable.

Inspecting Agencies.

279. The male inspecting agency was not brought up to its full sanctioned strength, but an advance was made. Two Deputy Inspectors and three Sub-Inspectors were added during the year. The number of posts of inspecting pandits was reduced in accordance with the policy of their gradual elimination. Two Assistant Inspectresses were added to the staff.

Colleges.

280 The number of colleges remained at 11, of which 4 were Government and 4 aided. Pupils rose from 1,529 to 2,034. There were 13 collegiate hostels, 7 being Government institutions and one aided. The number of boarders was only 530. The Rajshahi College was improved by the addition of a fine common room, largely a gift of the zamindar of Balihar, but is still rapidly outgrowing its buildings. Improvements on a large scale were in progress at Cotton College, Gauhati. The Curzon Hall was purchased for the Art classes and the erection of a lecture theatre and laboratories begun. The Chittagong College was separated from the collegiate school and extensive buildings commenced. The Jagannath College moved into the new building, and further additions were under consideration. Progress was made with the new buildings for the Ananda Mohan College, and a small hostel was erected at the Murarichand College. One new professor was appointed at the Pabna College. The unaided Pramatha-Manmatha College was amalgamated with the Jagannath College.

High Schools.

281. The total number of High Schools decreased from 216 to 215 owing to amalgamation. The number of pupils rose from 51,904 to 56,982 or by 9·7 per cent. against an increase of 4 per cent. in the previous year. Of the total increase 40 per cent. were Muhammadans. There was an improvement in the tone of schools situated in politically affected areas and the management of three schools in Bakarganj was placed temporarily in the hands of Government. The number presented for matriculation declined from 3,192 to 1,279, but the percentage of success rose from 66·6 to 79·2 per cent. of those presented. The number of those who passed in in the first division was 660 against 536 of the previous year, while only ·37 were placed in the third division against 386. Under the new rules 107 junior scholarships were awarded, of which 74 were won by Hindus, 26 by Muhammadans and 7 by members of backward races.

Middle Schools.

282. The number of Middle English Schools increased from 584 to 599, and of pupils from 53,957 to 58,555. The increase in institutions was among unaided schools that in pupils among all kinds. There was a substantial rise in the cost of educating a pupil owing to an increase of more than half a lakh in expenditure. The abolition of public examinations at the conclusion of the middle course seems to have improved insiruction in the better class of schools, while that in the poorer sort is said to have further deteriorated. The middle vernacular schools continued to be unpopular. Their numbers declined from 405 to 391, and pupils from 26,290 to 25,448, while total expenditure likewise decreased. Out of 165 scholarships awarded 94 were gained by Hindus and 64 by Muhammadans, the rest by other classes.

Primary Schools.

283. A revised curriculum of normal schools was framed by a representative committee; it is designed to introduce a more modern, intelligent and practical course of education. Progress was made in introducing a system of Board primary schools of a better type than the ordinary village *pathsala* or *maktab*. The number of primary schools for boys declined from 18,041 to 17,325 and of pupils from 6,63,819 to 6,50,564—

singular contrast to the large increases of the previous two years. Local causes contributed to the decrease, 103 schools, for instance, being closed in Pabna district owing to the prevalence of cholera and fever, but it was probably mainly due to more general causes. The cause was in part apparent rather than real being, it is believed, largely due to the non-recognition, as primary schools, of institutions of an ephemeral or extremely rudimentary nature, which were formerly incorrectly included in the returns of public institutions. The policy of concentration of grants pursued by the Boards led to the closing of many schools, *viz.*, 305 in Dacca, 509 in Chittagong and about 90 in Rajshahi. The General effect was in some respects beneficial, as the decrease in pupils was not by any means commensurate with the number of schools from which the grant was withdrawn and the additional strength thus gained for the remaining school was a great advantage. It appears, however, that the District Boards were in some cases lacking in caution in closing schools which they believed to be redundant. With regard to *maktabs*, the figures were not complete, but in so far as they went they showed a falling off of 142 institutions and 4,210 pupils.

Instruction in Teaching.

284. The system of training remained the same. During the year, two professors arrived for the Training College at Dacca. Rules were framed for normal schools, and the policy of providing hostels for primary training schools was pursued. The number of schools remained at 52, but the number of pupils showed a nominal decline from 1,181 to 1,102. The normal schools numbered 5, and owing to a stricter test of admission the number of pupils fell from 289 to 273. Elementary training schools numbered 47 with 829 pupils, a decrease of 63 pupils. Considerable difficulty was found in attracting teachers to the schools to be trained. Both Hindu and Muhammadan Hostels were supplied at 16 training schools and Muhammadan hostels at 6. At the Eden High School 20 female teachers were under training during the year.

Special Education.

285. In order to improve legal education the University withdrew B. L. affiliation from all colleges except Dacca, where a Law College is to be established, and the High Court withdrew affiliation to the pleadership examination from all centres except Dacca, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Gauhati. A joint board was formed for the pleaders' survey examination.

The numbers in the Dacca Medical School were 212, 8 being females, and in the Berry-White Medical School 107. The total numbers show an increase of 6. The cost per pupil declined at Dacca, but at Dibrugarh it rose by Rs. 36 owing to the installation of X-ray accessories. At Dacca there were 25 Muhammadans, of whom 2 were females; at the Berry-White School there were 49 pupils from the Assam Valley, as well as 1 Khasi and 2 Nagas. Out of 49 and 35 fourth-year students at the two schools respectively 35 and 33 passed the final examination.

Technical and Industrial institutions, including "B" classes, numbered 22 and their pupils 1,225. Besides the ordinary overseer, sub-overseer, and artisan courses, these institutions include among them courses in weaving, sericulture, carpentry and blacksmithy, and survey. There are 8 commercial schools with 227 pupils, all of them unaided.

There are no Government institutions for the teaching of Sanskrit, but a grant of Rs. 7,040 was spent in aid of the Kabindra College, the Jagatpur Asram and the Sutrapur *tol* and in giving rewards and stipends to *tols* in Assam. District Boards spent Rs. 6,941 on *tols*. Public *tols* decreased from 309 to 300 and their pupils from 5,224 to 4,798; private institutions, though they increased from 101 to 103, contained 838 pupils against 848.

Female Education.

286. Girls' schools increased from 4,121 to 4,231 and their pupils from 86,644 to 92,404. The total number of women and girls, including those in boys schools, rose by 7·7 per cent. to 122,173. Of these 48·1 per cent. were Muhammadans and it was to them that the bulk of the year's increase was due. The Eden High School was brought to a most efficient state and training classes were added. There were 383 pupils at the three high schools; Middle English Schools numbered 5 with 613 pupils; middle vernacular schools 12 with 886 pupils; upper primary schools 74 with 3,265 and lower primary 4,136 with 87,237 pupils. In zenana classes the numbers under instruction increased from 273 to 345. In the Assam Valley weaving looms were provided in 4 schools. At Nowgong 15 or 20 girls at a time were given instruction in weaving. At Barisal lace-making was taught to ladies in zananas, but the experiment was not successful.

Education of special classes: (a) Europeans.

287. European education was imparted by one Government school, and by four aided schools and one unaided school. The private schools were mainly managed by Roman Catholic missions. There were in all 6 schools open and the total expenditure was Rs. 41,728 as against Rs. 51,292 in the previous year. The total number of

pupils, so far as statistics were obtained, was 393, an increase of 13. At St. Scholastica's, Chittagong, lace-making formed an important feature of the institution.

(b) Muhammadans. 288. The increase in Muhammadan pupils which characterized the past few years was well maintained in colleges, in secondary boys' schools and in girls' schools, but showed a falling off of 4 per cent. in boy's primary schools and a consequent decrease of 4,924 and 2,849 in Muhammadan pupils in public and private institutions respectively. The decrease has been explained in the paragraph dealing with primary education in general. The proportion of Muhammadan pupils to the total number of pupils in public institutions was 52·0 per cent. against 52·8 per cent. in the year previous, but there was an increase in colleges from 8·6 per cent. to 10·8 per cent. and a slight increase also in high and middle English schools. Middle *madrassas* increased from 37 to 40 aided and 11 unaided, and contained 6,859 pupils. The direct cost was Rs. 53,824 of which Rs. 9,131 was contributed by public funds and the remarkably high sum of Rs. 15,606 by subscriptions, etc. The 1,667 secularised *maktabs* included in the returns were classed as lower primary schools; their pupils numbered 54,457. Ten Muhammadan hostels were constructed, or were under construction, during the year. It is noticeable that out of 37 scholarships won by girls in the Rajshahi division, 24 fell to Muhammadans.

(c) Backward Tribes. 289. The schools in hill districts, or specially intended for backward tribes, consist of 2 high schools, 8 middle English, 19 upper primary and 694 lower primary schools, as well as 40 private institutions. The total number of pupils increased from 15,898 to 17,401. There are also 15 special schools for children on tea gardens.

Discipline. 290. There was great improvement in discipline and in especial the mischievous participation of colleges and schools in political agitation almost disappeared. The managers and headmasters of many privately managed institutions co-operated with the officers of the Government in producing this satisfactory result. The attention of students having been diverted from *lathi* play, they showed a renewed liking for school games. Grants of totally Rs. 5,661, were made for the encouragement of cricket, football, etc.

Expenditure. 291. The total expenditure on public instruction was Rs. 65,94,013 against Rs. 66,34,467 in the previous year. Provincial revenues contributed Rs. 19,36,516 against Rs. 20,20,947, the decrease being in indirect expenditure. District and local funds contributed Rs. 13,23,707 against Rs. 14,91,455, the decrease again being chiefly in indirect expenditure. Expenditure from Municipal funds rose from Rs. 42,164 to Rs. 51,441. Fees increased from Rs. 22,09,817 to Rs. 23,44,301 and subscriptions from Rs. 8,61,951 to Rs. 9,33,024.

SECTION 3.—Literature and the Press.

Literary works. 292. The total number of publications received and catalogued during the year was 201, against 223 in the previous year. Of these 88 works were educational. Eighty-two books were written in Bengali, 31 in Assamese and only 4 in English. General School books and keys numbered 50, books on religion 45, and poetry 30. Forty-five were classified as miscellaneous. There were very few books of practical utility. Only about 6 books having an undoubted seditious intention were registered in 1909 as against 39 such books registered in 1908, and of those registered during the year under review some appear to have been issued as early as 1907, though not registered then. The part played by books openly avowing rebellion and murder in the propagation of revolution was taken by secretly printed and distributed pamphlets and leaflets of the *Yugantar* type.

Newspapers. 293. The number of English and vernacular papers published during the year were 4 and 59 respectively. Of papers owned by Indians *The East* of Dacca continued to be conspicuous for loyalty to Government, The tone of the great majority of vernacular papers showed a marked decrease in violence during the year, but though the language was more cautious than before, criticism was none the less captious and malevolent. Persistent endeavours were made to place the actions of Government and of Government officials in the worst possible light, and the campaign of deliberate misrepresentation of Government still continued. The most objectionable paper was the *Barisal Hitaishi*, its rival in malicious hostility to Government, the *Purba Bangala* of Dacca, having ceased publication during the year owing to a prosecution for certain seditious articles. It is a noticeable and regrettable fact that there is no good Muhammadan paper in the province.

SECTION 4.—Scientific and Literary Societies.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, page 194.]

SECTION 5.—Arts and Sciences.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Work of the year.

294. Rupees 4,300 were allotted by the Government of India for archæological works. The restoration of the Bishnudole temple in Kamrup was taken in hand and the repairs of two temples on the bank of the Jaysagar tank at Sibsagar and of the mosque at Kusumba in Rajshahi were completed, this last being a fine mosque built over 300 years ago by one Sona Bibi, a Begam in the palace of a Pathan ruler of Goni.

A considerable number of military monuments, ancient tombs and religious buildings were declared to be protected monuments, and similar protection was extended to the Duargarila rock inscription, at the foot of the Kamakhya hill in Kamrup, which had been endangered by quarrying operations.

An old cannon was presented to the State by Mr. John Taylor of Messrs. Macneill & Co., Calcutta, and is now mounted at Gauhati. This cannon, which is one of the oldest yet discovered in Assam, belonged to Sudai-Pha, King of Assam, 1677-1679A.D., and bears the following inscription :—

শ্রীশ্রী স্বর্গনারায়ণ দেব সৌমারেশ্বর পবিত্ত বংশরোদ্ভব মহারাজাধিরাজেণ কৃতং শাকে ১৫৯৯ ।

" Made in Saka 1599 (1677 A.D.) by the God of Heaven, the King of Kings the Ruler of Saumara (Assam) born of divine lineage."

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, page 190.]

SECTION 2.—Ecclesiastical.

Ecclesiastical.

295. The ecclesiastical establishment of the Province consists of the Government Chaplains of Shillong and Dacca. From the 1st of May to the 24th of October 1909 and from the 1st of November to the 11th of December there was no Government Chaplain at Dacca, the duties being discharged by the Clergy of the Oxford Mission. Six other stations, *viz.*, Chittagong, Saidpur, Silchar, Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, have Chaplains whose incomes are derived from private subscriptions or contributions from Missionary Societies, supplemented by Government grants. The Chaplaincy of Darrang was vacant from the 28th of April 1909. The table below shows the sources from which the aided chaplains derive their stipends, apart from the Government grants, which, except in that of Darrang and Sibsagar (Rs. 100), amount to Rs. 150 in each case :—

Name of station.	Sources from which stipend is derived.
Chittagong	Additional Clergy Society (Rs. 100), private subscription (Rs. 100).
Saidpur	Calcutta Diocesan Additional Clergy Society (Rs. 200).
Silchar	Cachar Clergy Fund (Rs. 100), Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (Rs. 150).
Darrang	Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (Rs. 100).
Sibsagar	Private subscription from tea-planters (Rs. 350).
Lakhimpur	Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (Rs. 75). Private subcriptions from tea-planters (Rs. 75).

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

Stationery.

296. The value of the stationery supplied during the year, by the Controller of Stationery, Calcutta, to the various Government offices and departments in this Province was Rs. 4,28,458, or over 41 per cent. more than in the previous year. The increase is due to the heavy supplies of paper and binding materials drawn by the Central Jail Press at Dacca.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

Printing.

297. The cash receipts of the Secretariat Press amounted to Rs. 6,806 against 6,491 in the previous year and the net expenditure to Rs. 2,37,969. The actual amount paid to workmen exceeded the value of the outturn by Rs. 560. The Vandyke Press was made over to the Survey Department from 1st April 1909, and the Central Jail Press at Dacca was placed under the Jail authorities on 1st March 1910. The cash receipts of the Jail Press amounted to Rs. 5,620 and the total expenditure to Rs. 1,65,303.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year 1909-1910.]

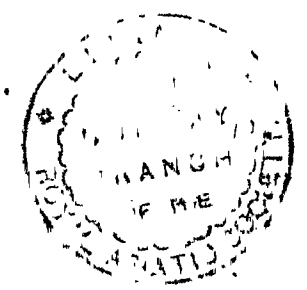
Veterinary work.

298. Though ten graduate assistants were allotted to Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year, the actual strength of the Department (47) was far below the sanctioned strength of 143 officers. The total number of inoculations performed was 41,747 as against 58,002 in 1908-1909, the decrease being principally due to the fact that for three months in the year no rinderpest serum was available. A satisfactory feature of the year was the marked diminution in mortality among bovines, the number of deaths reported falling from 85,476 to 50,276. About 75 per cent. of the deaths were reported from five districts of the Assam Valley Division; and this would seem to indicate that the reporting agencies in the rest of the province are defective, and not merely that the conditions prevailing in these districts are particularly

unfavourable to cattle. No new veterinary hospitals and dispensaries were constructed, but, there was an increase of nearly a thousand in the number of animals treated thereat. After the close of the year, arrangements for the provision of veterinary treatment in the Surma Valley were assimilated to those in force in the rest of the province.

Breeding.

299. The number of stud bulls was increased during the year, but the progress made in improving the breed of cattle continued to be small.



REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1910-1911.

BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1910-11.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

Tours.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor left Shillong on the 25th of July and, after a stay of one day at Gauhati, arrived at Jorhat on the 27th.

Here he inspected the new station which was in the course of construction and received and replied to addresses from the Municipal Commissioners, the Local Board, the Anjuman Anwari Islamia and the people of Jorhat. A departure was made on the evening of the 30th for Comilla where he received His Highness the Raja of Hill Tippera and opened the Fuller Islamia Hostel. Addresses were received from the local bodies.

On the evening of the 4th, His Honour left for Dacca, where an important meeting was held to discuss the question of a memorial to the late King-Emperor.

From Dacca a visit was made to Manikganj. A return was made to Shillong by the end of the month.

Sir Lancelot Hare and party left Shillong on November 16th for Calcutta, where he was present at the arrival of His Excellency the Viceroy on his arrival in India and subsequently started for Dacca, which was reached on the 24th. On the 4th of December he left Dacca for Barisal and the Sunderbans. At Barisal the usual addresses were received. In the Sunderbans halts were made at Kalmegha and Lotachapli and Khepupara, where the work of colonisation, which has resulted in the conversion of thick jungle into prosperous clearings was inspected. Dacca was reached on the 13th.

In January a visit was made to Chittagong, and on the return journey the Lieutenant-Governor halted at Feni to open the new High School, which has cost about half a lakh of rupees.

In February a long tour was made in the northern districts of the province, during which Rangpur, Alipur Duar, Buxa, Nilphamari, Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur and Naogaon were visited, a return being made to Dacca on the 4th of March.

On the 11th of March Sir Lancelot Hare presided at the prize-giving ceremony of the Eden Female School, Dacca. On the 16th of March he held a durbar, at which the King's Police Medals were presented to two police officers and 25 gentlemen were invested with titles.

On the 17th of March he presided at the Convocation of the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj and distributed diplomas to successful students, and on the 31st attended the speech-day ceremony of the Dacca College.

The departure to Shillong for the hot weather was made on the 7th of April.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the Administration.

2. The recommendations of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation were given effect to by the appointment of officers for touring in the Sadr Subdivisions of plains districts.

The jurisdictions of the Additional Judges were re-arranged.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Manipur.

3. The State continued to make steady progress during the year under report. The abnormal rainfall resulted in damage to seedlings on low-lying lands, but the loss was compensated for by the crops obtained from high lands. Active steps were taken to popularise the cultivation of mulberry trees, the use of improved hand-looms, the use of improved methods of sugar-making and the advancement of fruit culture. The settlement established on State lands at Jirighat expanded steadily and promises to become a fruitful source of revenue. The revenue collected in Cachar on timber removed from the State forests on that border forms a very considerable addition to the income of the State but the unregulated extraction of timber is a source of danger to the existence of the forests and a scheme is under preparation for their proper control.

Hill Tippera.

4. On August 11th, 1910, the Raja married the daughter of Maharajkumar Narendra Bikram Saha, uncle of the present Maharajadhiraj of Nepal.

The investigations of the State geologists have disclosed the existence of considerable deposits of red ochre, limestone and kaolin, and it is hoped that it will be possible to work them commercially. The rainfall was seasonable and evenly distributed. Paddy crops were good and *jhum* crops were exceptionally flourishing.

During the year both members of the *Khas Adalat* retired, their places being filled by a retired Sudordinate Judge and a senior pleader of the Comilla bar.

Mr. Williams, a former tutor of the Raja, was appointed to the personal staff.

Frontier tribes

5. The Subankhata fair which has been steadily decreasing in importance for some time past was not held in the year under review. The Darranga fair was also a comparative failure. It is expected that the proposed reconstruction of the road between Darranga and Dewangiri will stimulate trade and revive this fair.

The Daflas raided the camp of an elephant mahaldar and were punished by an expedition. Mr. Williamson and the Subdivisional Officer of North Lakhimpur toured up the Kamla valley and met hitherto unknown tribes.

In March 1911, Mr. Williamson, Assistant Political Officer, Sadiya, accompanied by Dr. Gregorson, visited the Minyong villages to enquire into the extent of Tibetan influence in that direction. After a halt at Sissin, Mr. Williamson advanced to Komsing, leaving Dr. Gregorson at Sissin. Mr. Williamson was at first treated well but a sudden attack was made on his party and all were killed except five of the coolies who managed to escape through the jungle. Dr. Gregorson and his men were also murdered. Enquiries show that the murder was pre-arranged and that several of the Minyong villages were involved. On receipt of the news a force belonging to the Lakhimpur Military Police Battalion advanced to Pasighat and picked up the five refugees. Operations have subsequently been taken by an expeditionary force.

In the course of a tour in the direction of Rima, Mr. Williamson found that the Chinese had asserted their authority over all the Tibetan villages in this part of the country and had advanced to within a short distance of Menilkrai where they had placed two flags to mark what they considered to be the boundary.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the People.

6. The year was a favourable one for the cultivator and for the labouring classes. The former secured good crops in most areas and where some damage had been caused by floods a local rise in prices brought compensation, The labourer continued to command high wages while the fall in the price of the chief food-stuffs put him in a good position.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Realisation of the Revenue.

7. An increase of 131·7 square miles in the revenue-paying area was accompanied by an increase of Rs. 2,97,121 in the revenue demand. The percentage of current collections to current demand exceeded 99 in all districts except Bakarganj and Sylhet. The number of certificates issued increased by 3,746, but it was necessary to proceed to actual sale in a very small percentage of the cases.

Miscellaneous Land Revenue declined from Rs. 6,21,462 to Rs. 4,85,151, chiefly owing to the fact that in the previous year large collections were made on account of survey and settlement recoveries in Bakarganj. A falling off in the amount of coal and oil extracted led to a decrease of eight thousand rupees in the revenue from this head.

The total amount of loans outstanding was reduced during the year from Rs. 7,55,427 to Rs. 5,18,373.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and Settlements.

8. Traverse survey parties were at work in the Mymensingh, Dacca, Rajshahi and Lakhimpur districts. In addition to these a number of minor operations were undertaken, including the traverse survey of Gauhati, Dibrugarh and Chittagong towns, the survey of certain villages in Cachar and of certain Government estates in Sylhet and the relaying of a portion of the Rangpur-Cooch Behar boundary.

The Bakarganj settlement has been completed but the report has not yet been received. In Faridpur the printing of the record was commenced. Operations in Jalpaiguri suffered from the incompetence of the subordinate staff but the programmes in Mymensingh and Dacca were successfully completed. In Mymensingh the records of two thanas have passed through the final scrutiny and the work of printing has begun. In Dacca the attestion of 210 square miles of riparain country was finished and field work carried out over an area of 543 square miles in the Manikganj subdivision. In Assam the programme of the Lakhimpur settlement consisted of revenue attestation in 480 villages and record attestation in 648 villages. Revenue attestation is an innovation which is much appreciated by the raiyats.

LAND RECORDS.

Land records.

9. No scheme for the preservation of the record of rights has yet been evolved. A tentative scheme put forward by the Director of Land Records does not appear to be likely to gain the support which is an essential factor in its success.

SETTLEMENTS FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlement for Special Cultivation.

10. The area settled for special cultivation increased during the year by 5,508 acres and the revenue by Rs. 8,812.

GOVERNMENT, WARDS AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Government Estates.

11. There were 1,601 estates held direct by Government in Eastern Bengal as compared with 1,590 in the preceding year. Nearly half a lakh of rupees were spent on colonisation work in the Bakarganj Sundarbans where 346 new colonists were settled on 11,616 bighas of land.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

12. Nine new estates were brought under the management of the Court of Wards, the number under the Court at the close of the year being 54. Collections fell off and the payment of revenue and cesses was not satisfactory. The financial management of the Bakarganj estates in particular showed much room for improvement.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

13. The year was one of peaceful progress with no marked feature which deserve special comment.

Continued attempts were made to inculcate upon landlords the necessity for granting receipts and to this end thirteen prosecutions were instituted in the Dacca division.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Legislation.

14. No new Acts were passed in the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council during the year.

POLICE.

Military Police.

15. The Silchar and Garo Hills Battalions were amalgamated with the Dacca Battalion and a hundred men added to the strength of the latter to allow of a detachment being posted at Barisal. Excessive work and indifferent housing reacted on the efficiency of the Dacca Battalion, but happily the number of actual deaths was reduced. Detachments of military police escorted Mr. Needham into the country across the Dikhu, Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Woods into the Kuki country and Mr. Williamson into an unexplored portion of the Dafla Hills.

Civil Police.

16. The ordinary reserve was too weak for the duties imposed on it and it was found necessary to draft men from the armed reserve to Dacca for work in the town, which they dislike and regard as outside the sphere of their duty. The result was a general loss of efficiency. The difficulties of obtaining local recruits continued to be as great as ever and the difficulty of enlisting up-country men continued to increase. A special officer was deputed to enquire into the question of recruitment.

River Police.

17. An elaborate scheme for the organization of the river police was submitted to the Government of India during the year under report and has since been sanctioned. Little progress was made with the actual formation of the force, but measures for the protection of the jute trade were carried out as in the preceding year and police launches patrolled the main routes taken by jute boats. It is satisfactory to note that no dakaiti was reported from the area thus patrolled.

Rural Police.

18. The work of the rural police is still very indifferent and in many districts they were pronounced to be little more than an agency for collecting vital statistics. The fault appears to lie both with the chaukidar, who is apt to look to the panchayat for his orders and to regard the constable as an alien intruder, and with the subordinate officers of the police who rarely trouble to form friendly relations with the village headman and enlist his aid.

Crime.

19. The work of the investigating police both as regards the detection of crime and the recovery of stolen property, still leaves much to be desired. It would appear that lack of local knowledge on the part of investigating officers, inefficient methods of investigation and lack of supervision were mainly responsible for this.

The results of the cases that were instituted were more satisfactory, 81·8 per cent. of those decided by Magistrates ending in conviction. The Criminal Investigation Department was reorganized during the year and a considerable addition made to the staff. The Department proved particularly successful in dealing with "gang" cases, 39 persons out of the 46 who were brought to trial as members of gangs of robbers or dakaits being sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Criminal Justice.

20. The number of criminal offences reported shows an increase of 3,324 on the figures for 1909. Eighty-five thousand six hundred and thirty cases were declared true and 61,468 were brought to trial. The number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates again showed an increase and is doubtless due to the valuable assistance given to the criminal administration by the appointment of Additional Magistrates in the larger districts. The number of miscellaneous proceedings was again less than in the preceding year. Two lakhs thirty eight thousand nine hundred and forty-one witnesses were examined in Magistrates Courts as compared with 240,782 in 1909. Of these 30·3 per. cent. were discharged without examination. Of those examined 72·3 per. cent. were discharged on the first day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 2,075 more than the number so detained in 1909. The number of persons tried by jury in 1910 was 665. The Sessions Judges agreed with the juries in respect of 501 persons and referred to the High Court those of 35 persons. The average duration of cases in Sessions Courts was 37·6 days as compared with 40·9 days in the preceding year. During the year 427 appeals were decided by the High Court. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 319 cases, reversed in 42 and modified in 62. The percentage of appellants who were entirely unsuccessful was 76·1 as compared with 79·9 in 1909. On the recommendation of the High Court two sentences of transportation for life were commuted to rigorous imprisonment for ten and eight years, and in two cases suspension of sentence was granted for various periods to facilitate a prolonged enquiry into systematic crime.

JAILS.

Jails.

21. There was a further rise of 242 in the average daily jail population. The continued increase in the number of prisoners has resulted in the serious over crowding and consequent deterioration in the health of the jail population The cost of guarding and feeding the prisoners was reduced from Rs. 8,29,594 to Rs. 7,25,030, notwithstanding the increase in the number of prisoners.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Civil Justice.

22. During the year the number of original suits instituted was 429,439, an increase of 4,524 on the figures of the previous year. Suits for disposal numbered 520,811 and those disposed of 421,246, being an increase of 41,721 over the figures of 1909. The number of suits disposed of fell off in only two districts. All the courts show an increase in the duration of contested suits disposed of: in uncontested suits there was an improvement in all courts above those of Munsifs.

The total number of appeals for disposal by the High Court was 4,908. Of these, 1,087 were decided and 3,821 remained pending at the close of the year. Appellants were entirely unsuccessful in 77·5 per cent. of appeals.

The feature of the year's working were the large increase in the number of suits instituted, and the improved outturn of original and appellate work on contest.

The year's working of the civil courts resulted in a profit of Rs. 43,72,367. Receipts increased by nearly six lakhs of rupees and expenditure fell slightly.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

23. There was a decrease in the number of documents registered under all heads except the registration of sales of property, both moveable and immoveable. The decrease in the number of mortgages registered is attributable to the improved condition of the people, consequent on a good harvest and a fall in the price of food stuffs. Enquiries into the cost of registration in this province as compared with that in other provinces have shown that the Registration Department is worked most economically. Special sub-registrars and *ex-officio* sub-registrars were invested with all the powers of a District Registrar save those under section 68 of the Act.

Seventeen new companies were registered under the Indian Companies Act. A feature of the year was the registration of a number of Insurance Companies, some of which appear to be working on a very insecure basis.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Municipalities.

24. The rise in the number of, and average attendance at, Municipal Meetings, which was remarked in the report for 1909-1910, was not maintained, and Municipal Commissioners relapsed into their former apathy.

The activity of Municipalities was chiefly confined to the improvement of provision of water-supplies. Sanitation received little attention.

The progress of several Municipalities is obstructed by the attitude of the Commissioners, who plead poverty as an excuse for not supporting works of public utility but are unwilling to augment their income by imposing taxes on a reasonable scale or adopting methods of taxation which have been proved to be more suitable than those in vogue.

District and Local Boards.

25. The work done by the Boards was disappointing. Little appears to have been done to raise the efficiency of the Boards' Schools and nothing was done in the matter of technical education. The progress shown in the preceding year in the matter of water-supply was not maintained. Regular working plans were not prepared. The expenditure on sanitation and drainage was minute and the attempts to foster industrial enterprise were miserable failures.

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

Military.

26. The volunteer corps of the province maintained their strength and efficiency.

MARINE.

Marine.

27. The normal income of the ordinary port fund amounted to Rs. 1,31,071 while the ordinary expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,42,308. The liabilities of the Port Trust, exclusive of the loans taken from Government, amounted to Rs. 62,071. Proposals for improving the financial position of the Trust have had to be abandoned owing to the precarious state of the trade of the Port, it being feared that any increase in the dues imposed will result in a diminution of trade. The construction of a dam which will close the Gupta Char bye-channel was put in hand.

The value of the imports and exports of the foreign and coasting trade during 1910-11 amounted to 660·51 lakhs of rupees, as compared with 648·97 lakhs in the previous year.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

28. The officers of the department did valuable research work during the year. Investigations into the infertility of the highland soils of the old

alluvium have shown how its defects can be remedied by the proper application of manures. Experiments into the fertilisation of the jute plant have proved that it follows the Mendelian laws. More practical have been the demonstrations of the superiority of Mauritius sugarcane over all other varieties and the results of tobacco-growing in the Rangpur district, where it has been possible to produce tobacco which commands a higher price than Indian tobacco has ever done up to the present.

The important work of breeding was carried out at the Upper Shillong Farm. During the year 7 bulls and 18 heifers were sold from the herd. Experiments at the farm in crossing local ewes with *Dumbu* rams resulted in the cross-bred sheep's weight exceeding that of the local variety by more than fifty per cent. A survey of the plough and milch cattle of the province has been undertaken by a special officer. It is hoped that his report will make it possible to introduce measures for the improvement of the local breeds of cattle.

The dissemination of agricultural knowledge was carried out by the investigations of officers in outbreaks of crop-diseases, by the distribution of seed and intruments from the central seed-depôt at Dacca and by demonstrations at agricultural exhibitions.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

29. The record of the year is again one of progress. At present the attempts to form co-operative unions are hindered by the fact that the law does not recognise such unions but this obstacle will shortly be removed. Meanwhile two experiments are being made. In one case a local Inspector, to be paid by proportionate contributions from the constituent banks, has been appointed to supervise all the societies in the Madaripur sub-diviston.

In the other case eight societies have combined and appointed the secretary of one of them to act as a supervisor. All the rural societies but one worked at a profit but there is a tendency among urban banks to give up their co-operative object and to become mere dividend hunters.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and Crops.

30. The excessive rainfall of the year resulted in some damage to crops in lowlying areas which was compensated for by the possibility of bringing under the plough high land which lies waste in an ordinary year. The total rainfall in every district of the province was in marked excess, which was greatest in the central and western districts where it averaged sixty per cent. of the normal rainfall. The outturn of rice is estimated to have been five lakhs of tons less than in the preceding year and the average price of rice was in consequence somewhat higher. The price of jute ruled very high during the year.

FORESTS.

Forests.

31. Nine thousand and five hundred and twenty-eight acres were added to the reserved forests of the province. On the other hand, the area of the unclassed State forests fell by 336 square miles. Working plans were satisfactorily carried out and good progress was made in the construction of forest roads, particularly in the Buxa Division, where, in the course of eight years, Rs. 50,000 has been spent in road making, while the revenue has risen from Rs. 63,255 to Rs. 3,47,984. A large number of sleepers were supplied from the Buxa and Goalpara Divisions to the Railway Companies and in Lakhimpur the local trade in tea boxes more than held its own.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Tea.

32. The year was on the whole a favourable one for the tea trade. Prices ruled high and more than compensated the grower for the decreased output where that occurred.

Mines.

33. Eight prospecting licenses were issued during the year. The royalty on coal and oil amounted to about Rs. 62,000.

FACTORIES.

Factories. 34. One hundred and twenty factories were at work at the close of the year, as compared with one hundred and thirty-two in the preceding year. There were no prosecutions under the Factories Act.

TRADE.

Maritime Trade. 35. The maritime trade of the province increased by 11·5 lakhs of rupees. Foreign trade, owing chiefly to increased exportations of tea and hemp increased by nearly fourteen lakhs of rupees, while the coasting trade again decreased in volume. Exports of raw jute fell by 10·9 per cent.

Rail and River-borne trade. 36. The total trade between this and other provinces decreased in quantity, from 697 to 665 lakhs of maunds, but its value increased from 4,708 to 5,030 lakhs of rupees. There was a considerable fall in the value of foreign cotton goods imported. Exports of jute decreased in quantity but increased in value owing to the rise in prices. Exports of tea increased in quantity and by 13 per cent. in value.

Frontier trade. 37. The aggregate value of frontier trade Rs. 5,38,620. Imports were valued at Rs. 4,28,451 as compared with Rs. 3,11,225 and exports at Rs. 1,10,169 as compared with Rs. 1,69,351 in the preceding year, but the statistics of trade with Bhutan are unreliable as the trade routes are changing and much of the trade is unregistered.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Public Works. 38. At Dacca Rs. 1,67,000 were expended on the new Government House and preparations were made for building quarters for European and Eurasian clerks. The new Secretariat building was completed at a total cost of Rs. 12,96,035. The Press building was occupied at the end of the year. Rs. 32,000 were expended on clearing and laying out the grounds of the new Civil Station, Rs. 38,000 on new roads, Rs. 57,000 on drainage and Rs. 85,000 on laying out the Amlapara.

Experiments in bandalling the river Brahmaputra near Dibrugarh by the Steamer Companies, to whom a subsidy of Rs. 3,000 was paid, proved a failure, but some good resulted from similar operations on the Buriganga near Dacca.

The total Public Works revenue amounted to Rs. 2,29,368 and the expenditure to Rs. 65,67,889. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were Rs. 2,11,913 and Rs. 66,33,258.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—GROSS REVENUE.

Gross Revenue. 39. The gross receipts of the year, taking Imperial and Provincial Revenues together and including adjustments between them, aggregated Rs. 4,89,84,588, an increase of over thirteen lakhs of rupees over the figures of 1909-1910.

Land revenue. 40. The ordinary land revenue demand for the year amounted to Rs. 2,04,57,236 out of which Rs. 1,96,20,713 were collected and Rs. 82,551 remitted. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of Rs. 2,40,004 in the demand. Collections of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 7,18,406.

Customs. 41. Customs receipts again fell owing to smaller clearances of salt at Chittagong.

42. Duty-paid salt imported by rail and river from Calcutta continued to replace salt imported by sea. The increase in the importation from the United Kingdom (101 per cent.) and from Germany (32·43 per cent.) indicates that the boycott movement against foreign salt has lost its force. The price of salt rose from Rs. 2-0-8 to Rs. 2-0-11. Salt.

43. The total revenue demand for the year amounted to Rs. 78,35,223 as compared with Rs. 72,90,638 in the previous year. Competition for licenses was abnormally keen and resulted in a large increase in the demand under the head license fees head. The increased consumption of country spirit and ganja and the rise in the price of opium accounted for the increase in duty. There are signs that the increase in the price of opium is stimulating the consumption of ganja which is substituted for it. Excise.

44. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court-Fees Acts rose from Rs. 1,01,63,928 to Rs. 1,06,73,528 during the year under report. The increase has been steady and continued for some years and is attributed mainly to the growing prosperity of the people and the consequent increase of litigation. Settlement and cess revaluation operations have invariably resulted in a large increase in the revenue in individual districts. Stamps.

45. Income-tax revenue increased by 2·9 per cent. The final demand for the year was Rs. 10,40,464. Income-tax.

46. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 17,50,000 and closed with a balance of Rs. 72,89,698, showing an apparent surplus of Rs. 55,39,698, but the high closing balance was mainly attributable to additional grants from the Government of India. The opening balance included a contribution of Rs. 5,50,000 made from Imperial to Provincial Revenues, to enable the Provincial Government to discharge its obligations to the Port Commissioners of Chittagong. Of this only a portion was paid during the year. The receipts included a total net contribution of Rs. 98,35,965 from Imperial to Provincial Revenues as against Rs. 50,85,000 estimated in the Budget. Provincial Finance.

47. The financial position of the funds of which an account is still submitted to Government was sound. The total closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 20,70,612. Local Funds.

48. In Eastern Bengal the current demand fell from Rs. 34,07,838 to Rs. 33,71,663. The percentage of collections to current demand was 98·99. Road and Public Works Cesses.

In Assam the demand exceeded the demand of the previous year by Rs. 11,721 and amounted to Rs. 7,68,420. The percentage of collections was 99·26.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

49. The death-rate for the year 1910, 33·71, though lower than in the previous year, was still slightly above the average (32·13). The provincial birth-rate fell from 40·46 to 37·96. Vital statistics.

From the point of view of the public health the year calls for little comment. The variations of humidity and temperature were insignificant. Crops on the whole were good and full.

The death-rate of the province depends chiefly on the mortality from fever, which is high, owing to the apathy with which the native views the presence of the mosquito and to the still greater apathy he displays in regard to the surroundings of his house.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

Immigration.

50. *Manufactures.*—The year was a prosperous one for the tea industry. Increasing demands for labour were met to some extent by a considerable increase in the number of immigrants, despite the fact that good harvests prevailed in the recruiting districts.

The relations between employers and employed were distinctly good.

A suggestion that the labour provisions of Act VI should be withdrawn from the districts of the Brahmaputra Valley was put forward and, speaking generally, the change has been accepted as inevitable.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable Dispensaries.

51. The year was one of steady progress. The increase in the number of female patients and in the number of beds provided for in-door patients are very satisfactory features of the year's working.

The successful results of the experiments in the treatment of cholera by means of intraperitoneal injections of saline, which were carried out at the Barisal dispensary, were most encouraging.

Lunatic Asylums.

52. The statistics of the Lunatic asylums for the year 1910 call for little comment. The causes of insanity amongst the lunatics admitted during the year were ascertained in 47 per cent. of the cases, and in over 34 per cent. of these cases the insanity was attributable to the abuse of *ganja*. Tezpur asylum again proved unable to meet the demands made upon its accommodation, and overcrowding resulted. A scheme for the erection of a large central asylum has been prepared. Its estimated cost is 27 lakhs of rupees.

Sanitation.

53. The year under report was one of great activity in the preparation and inception of sanitary schemes. At Dacca, schemes for the provision of sewerage system and for the construction of surface drains and the canalisation of the *khals* of the city were taken in hand.

The remodelling of the Dacca water works was completed and the construction of water works at Barisal was commenced. At Chittagong, a project for the supply of water from Artesian wells was in the course of preparation and at Shillong the scheme for supplying the station with water from two streams has been sanctioned and the work begun

A scheme for the drainage of Nator by the canalisation of *khals* and the use of devices to accelerate the deposit of silt has been sanctioned as an experimental measure.

The improvement of water supplies in rural areas was aided by a grant of Rs. 80,000, which was placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Board. The general activity in the preparation of plans for water works and drainage bears eloquent testimony to the growing demand for sanitary improvements. There are few district headquarters which have not some project in progress or under preparation, but the paucity of funds at the disposal of both Government and the local bodies has necessitated the postponement of much work which deserves to be taken up at once.

An important change was introduced in the method of selling quinine. The old paper packets which were sold for one pice have been replaced by phials containing twenty four-grains tabloids of hydrochloride of quinine which are retailed at three annas a phial.

It is hoped that the purchaser will now subject himself to a proper quinine treatment instead of indulging in a solitary dose at spasmodic intervals.

Eight thousand posters illustrating the value of quinine have been distributed broadcast for exhibition in public places, while one hundred thousand almanacs, designed with the same purpose, have been purchased for distribution among school children.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination.

54. The number of operations performed by departmental vaccinators was 1,357,264, the percentage of successful operations in primary cases being 96·53. The inspection of vaccinators and the verification of statistics was carried out very imperfectly by the Civil Surgeons, who attribute their failure

to stress of work. It is probable that the difficulty will have to be met by the appointment of special inspecting officers of a superior status.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Education.

55. An important scheme was framed for devolving powers from the Director to his Circle Inspectors. Under this scheme the Director will settle the programme and general features of the year's work in consultation with his Circle officers at the annual meeting of Inspectors whose powers will, in future, include administration of recurring grants-in-aid, authority to sanction minor works within fixed limits, the departmental control of district and local board budgets and the administration of the Subordinate Educational Service. The inspecting staff was to be strengthened by the appointment of a second Inspectress of schools.

Many improvements were made in both Government and privately managed colleges. The Dacca College obtained affiliation up to the M. A. in English, and B. A. classes were opened in the Chittagong College.

The condition of the numerous high schools remains in general unsatisfactory, but improvements were carried out in a number of institutions to the extent to which funds would permit. Hostel accommodation and arrangements received special attention. Progress was made in the introduction of a special scheme for improving the condition of residence of students in the Dacca town and a considerable improvement is said to have taken place among the boys. The growing demand for English education shows no sign of abatement and the number of pupils in secondary English schools increased by over 20,000. On the other hand, the decay in Middle Vernacular education continued.

The decline which occurred in 1909-1910 in the number of boys in primary schools was arrested, the figures in 1910-1911 showing a net increase of 3,208. In some districts, however, and especially in Mymensingh and Faridpur, there was a large diminution in the number of pupils. The reasons for this appear to be the previous inclusion in the roll of ephemeral schools with no substantial claims to be classed as public institutions and the withdrawal of aid from a certain number of schools with a view to concentrate funds on the improvement of better institutions.

In the domain of female education, special attention was directed to the improvement of secondary schools at district headquarters and of primary schools at Dacca. A new vernacular curriculum, with special teacher's manuals, was prepared. The number of pupils reading in girls' schools rose by 9,000.

The increase of Muhammadan pupils in primary schools showed a slight diminution as compared with the increase of Hindu pupils, but the percentage of Muhammadans reading in secondary schools and colleges increased. An influential committee was occupied in framing a scheme for the reform of Madrassa education.

The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 73,05,000, an increase of 10·7 per cent. over the figures of the previous year.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature and the Press.

56. The number of publications received and catalogued was 530 as compared with 201 in the preceding year. The majority of these works are of an educational character. The Press Act effectually checked the open production of seditious literature but the tone of not a few of the publications is political and the intention of several is to lower the prestige of Government.

The vituperative activity of the newspapers was also curbed but many publications continued to show the same political bias as in former years, a bias which was particularly noticeable in their comments on political trials. Two Muhammadan papers ceased publication during the year and the Muhammadan community which forms a large majority of the province remained without an organ to voice their needs.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

57. Amongst various discoveries of archæological interest made during the year two deserve special mention.

Seven cannon, dating from the sixteenth century, were discovered in the Dacca district. At Sahebganj five metal images of Vishnu were discovered. They are made of bronze and belong to the Pála period.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VETERINARY.

58. The Veterinary Department again did good work during the year. There are definite indications that the Department is gradually gaining control over the diseases of animals in this Province, for the increase in the number of cases treated has been accompanied by a further decline in the prevalence of contagious diseases.

A sufficient supply of serum, the erection of suitable buildings for a hospital and laboratory and an efficient head office to cope with the growing clerical work and enable the Superintendent to devote his energies to technical work have been the crying needs of the Department during the year.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

PART II.

THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1910-1911.

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Shillong D.O.1912

ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1910-1911.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

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SECTION 1.—Physical Feature of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.

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SECTION 5.—Civil Divisions of British Territory.

SECTION 6.—Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages.

[See General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, pages 1-98.]

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration.

Changes in the Administration.

1. The change of most importance was the adoption of measures for the improvement of the administration of sadr subdivisions of plains districts.

The recommendations of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation were given effect to by the appointment of members of the Provincial or Subordinate Executive Services to tour in the sadr subdivision as Subdivisional Officers.

Of the five additional magistracies in existence three were placed on a permanent footing and one of the five posted to Sylhet. Immediately after the close of the year, two Additional Judgeships were created and a redistribution of the jurisdictions of Additional Judges was made whereby an Additional Judge was allotted to Sylhet, a second to Tippera and Chittagong and a third to Dacca and Faridpur, the jurisdictions of the Additional Judges of Bakarganj and Mymensingh remaining intact.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Feudatory States.

(See General Administration Report for 1905-06, Part II, pages 99—107).

SECTION 9.—Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

Feudatory States.

MANIPUR.

[Tribute :—Rs. 50,000 annually. Population (1911) 346,271. Gross revenue (average for last five years) :—Rs. 4,58,747. Military :—230 Military Police. Products :—Rice, *dal*, vegetables, rubber, wax, tea-seed and other forest products, ponies, cattle and buffaloes. Manufactures :—Cotton cloth, silk-cloth, brass, and other metal utensils, a few articles of ivory and jewellery, some leather work and coarse salt. Minerals :—Iron, limestone, copper and salt, but iron and copper are not worked.

Raja.—His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh, aged 25 years; caste—Kshatriya. The Raja has two sons, the first aged about three years and the second about a year, by his second wife, Rani Chingakhom Sayama Sakhi, and a daughter by his first wife, Rani Ngangbom Ibemacha.]

General.

2. A second son was born to the Raja on February 17th, 1911, by the second Rani Chingakhom Sayama Sakhi.

During the year 80 unlicensed guns were confiscated and at the end of the year there were 936 licensed guns in the State.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Hill tribes.

3. Another expedition was sent against the more southern tribes of the unadministered Somra tract with the object of punishing two villages, *viz.*, Somra Phuntret, a Tangkhul village, and Saiyapau, a village inhabited by Kukis. The inhabitants of Somra Phuntret deserted their village which was destroyed, and Saiyapau submitted, surrendered ten guns and paid a fine of Rs. 100 as well as two years' house tax. The troubles on this border arise from the fact that the tribes of the unadministered tract can sue the Manipur hillmen while the latter have no legal redress. The independent tribes are nevertheless chary of resorting to the Court and the result is that both parties take the law into their own hands and this leads to reprisals.

Administration of the Land Revenue

4. During the year 1,370 bighas of waste land were reclaimed and petitions for the relinquishment of 5,009 bighas were received. The current demand for the year was Rs. 3,14,780 and the percentage of collection 95·81. The total arrears at the end of the year were Rs. 12,939. The number of revenue cases for disposal decreased from 5,245 to 4,319 owing to the re-survey which has permanently settled the boundaries of holdings. The settlement at Jirighat established on the forest lands belonging to the State expanded steadily and promises to be a fruitful source of revenue to the State. Six thousand five hundred and eighty-three bighas of settled lands were surveyed during the year. The recent census disclosed the fact that a large number of houses of hill-men had escaped taxation. This led to a rise in the current demand of house tax from Rs. 63,573 to Rs. 69,869.

Production and trade.

5. The abnormally large rainfall of the year resulted in the flooding of low-lying lands and consequent damage to seedlings. The loss was compensated for by the crops obtained from high land and on the whole the paddy crop was a very fair one.

Advantageous terms of land tenure have been offered to raiyats who will take up mulberry cultivation and the Raja issued a proclamation pointing out the commercial advantages of sericulture. A large number of raiyats have now begun to grow mulberry trees and it is probable that, before long, the Manipur Company, Limited will be able to work at a profit. An expert weaver lent by the Department of Agriculture instructed two women in the use of hand-looms of the Salvation Army pattern and these women have been appointed instructresses in a weaving school. Two Muhammadan boys were sent during the year to learn improved methods of *gur* and sugar making and an expert mali has been engaged for the purpose of encouraging fruit culture.

During the year 98,898 maunds of rice, 4,019 cattle and buffaloes were exported. Specimens of ore from the hills near the Burma border show a large percentage of copper and negotiations are in progress in respect of the grant of a mining lease in this area.

Finance.

6. The total revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 4,95,526 compared with Rs. 4,79,164 in the previous year. The revenue from forests increased by over six thousand rupees owing to the large amount collected by the Forest authorities in Cachar as royalty on the produce removed from forests on the Cachar border. A scheme for the preservation and proper working of these forests is under the consideration of the Local Government.

The export taxes on rice and buffaloes cattle which were imposed in the previous financial year yielded Rs. 22,000, compared with Rs. 11,000 in 1909-1910.

The climatic conditions of the year under report were disastrous to the lessees of fisheries and a large sum had to be remitted. This resulted in a decrease of over Rs. 5,000 in the collections.

The stock of fish in the valley shows signs of diminishing and the question of the preservation of fish will have to be taken up. The income from salt revenue is a steadily diminishing one owing to the growing popularity of Liverpool salt.

The closing balance of March 31st showed a saving of Rs. 38,663 on the income of the year.

Sanitation.

7. The Darbar adopted a waterworks scheme for Imphal which is estimated to cost Rs. 2,89,269 and the Government of India have sanctioned for this purpose a loan of Rs. 2,00,000 at 4 per cent. to be repaid in ten years.

8. No changes in the educational arrangements are to be chronicled. The Darbar is desirous of having a school at Imphal but the expense is prohibitive.

Education.

9. A Veterinary Assistant has been engaged for the State. He treated about 600 animals and attended three outbreaks of contagious diseases.

Miscellaneous.

The census recorded a population of 222,912 in the valley and 123,359 in the hills. The total figure in 1901 was 284,465. The Tangkhuls and other Naga tribes gave a good deal of trouble over the census and tried to conceal their true numbers under the impression that the census was a method of assessing them for increased taxation.

HILL TIPPERA.

[Area :—4,086 square miles. Population (1911) 229,641. Revenue from State :—Rs. 8,88,187; Revenue from zemindari in British territory :—Rs. 8,91,322. Military force :—One regiment of 223 men. Chief products :—Rice and Cotton. Present Raja :—His Highness the Bisama-Samara-Bijayi Mahamahodaya Pancha Srijukta Raja Birendra Kishore Deb Barman Manikya Bahadur, aged 28 years; caste Kshatriya, has male heir; residence Agartala.]

General.

10. The most important event of the year in the Raj family was the marriage of the Raja to a daughter of Maharajkumar Narendra Bikram Saha, uncle of the present Maharajadhiráj of Nepal. The marriage took place at Birgunge in Nepal territory on August 11th, 1910.

Both Members of the *Khas Adalat* retired during the year under review and their places were filled by a retired Subordinate Judge and a senior pleader of the Comilla bar. Mr. T. R. Williams, who was formerly tutor to the Raja, when he was the Jubraj, was appointed to the personal staff of the Raja.

The investigations of the State geologists give some hope that it will be possible to open up mines or quarries. Red ochre, limestone and kaolin are all found in considerable quantities, some of the deposits being of excellent quality.

Census.

11. The census was taken in the same way as in British India. The preliminary figures, issued six days after the census, showed a total population of 229,641, an increase of 32·5 per cent. during the last ten years.

Revenue and Finance.

12. The revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 10,93,816, a figure which exceeds the quinquennial average by Rs. 2,05,629. The improvement is mainly due to the settlement operations which have been carried out and to reclamation works. These have led to an increase in the land revenue and in the nazars paid to the State.

The gross receipts, including the income from the attached zemindaries, amounted to Rs. 19,97,081. The total amount available for expenditure, including the opening balance, refunds, deposits and a temporary loan was Rs. 26,31,756. The total expenditure was Rs. 21,61,466, of which Rs. 4,16,965 represents payment of old liabilities.

The most noticeable variations in the expenditure are the increase of about Rs. 76,000 in the expenses incurred by the Raja and his family and the increase of Rs. 34,000 in the allowances given to the branches of the Raj family.

Protection.

13. The number of persons arrested was 449. Of these, 274 were sent up for trial and 177 convicted. The percentage of stolen property which was recoverred was only 17·41.

The number of original criminal cases increased by 41 in the year under report. Serious offences increased by 113, while petty offences diminished in number.

Weather and Crops.

14. On the whole the rainfall was seasonable and evenly distributed and, though there were local floods, no serious damage to property followed. All the paddy crops were good and the *jhum* crops were exceptionally flourishing.

The satisfactory outturn of the crops coupled with the high prices received for *til* and cotton combined to place the agricultural population in a favourable position. The high wages commanded by labour brought prosperity to the labouring classes.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

The prosperity of the people is evidenced by the fact that 1,223 families immigrated into the State while only 760 left. The immigrants were cultivating plainsmen while the emigrants were nomadic hill-men or settlers who could not adapt themselves to the climate.

Frontier Tribes.

Bhutias.

15. The Subankhata fair which has been steadily diminishing in importance for some time past was not held in the year under review.

The Darranga fair was also a comparative failure, a slight increase in the value of imports being more than counterbalanced by a considerable decrease in the value of exports.

The reconstruction of the road between Darranga and Dewangiri is under consideration, and, if undertaken, should stimulate trade. *Posa* amounting to Rs. 5,000 was distributed at the annual Darbar at Tezpur.

Akas.

16. The Kapachar Akas came down in March for their *posa* and the usual interchange of presents took place. The Hazarikhoa Akas did not come down this year.

Daflas.

17. The Charduar Daflas surrendered a man, who was concerned in the murder of two Miris to which reference was made in last year's report. It appears that out of the five men implicated, three are dead and one has left Dafla territory. The incident is, therefore, closed and the Charduar Daflas were given their usual *posa*. Their absence in 1911, when they failed to come down, remains unexplained. An expedition under Mr. Williamson punished the perpetrators of a raid on the camp of an elephant mahaldar. The fine of ten mithans imposed was not realised and accordingly three villages were burnt, the expedition returning with eleven of the men implicated in the raid. These were imprisoned in the Tezpur Jail and eventually released on the fine being paid.

Miris.

18. Mr. Williamson and Captain Hore toured up the Kamla Valley and were well received. The Subdivisional Officer of North Lakhimpur also toured up this Valley and met hitherto unknown tribes. There was considerable fighting among the Gachi Miris during the year in which settlers in British territory joined.

Orders have been passed for the removal of these settlers to a reasonable distance from the Inner Line and it is hoped that by this means their movements will be more easily controlled.

Abors.

19. In March 1911, Mr. Williamson, Assistant Political Officer, Sadiya, accompanied by Dr. J. D. Gregorson, visited the Minyong villages with a number of coolies to enquire into the extent of Tibetan influence in that direction. They were well received and halted for about a week near Sissin on the left bank of the Dihong, after which Mr. Williamson advanced to Komsing, leaving Dr. Gregorson and some sick coolies encamped at Sissin. Mr. Williamson was at first treated in a friendly manner but a sudden attack was made on his party and all were killed, except five of the coolies, who managed to escape through the jungle. Dr. Gregorson and the men with him were also murdered. Enquiries show that the massacre was pre-arranged and that several of the Minyong villages are involved in the outrage. Immediately on receipt of information about the massacre, a force of Military Police belonging to the Lakhimpur Battalion advanced to Pasighat, where they picked up the five refugees and recovered subsequently two more bodies out of the river but it was not considered advisable to advance into the hills at so late a season. The Gams of the Pasi villages below the gorge of the Dihong helped the fugitives and sent information to Sadiya. The affair caused a panic among the Miri villages of the plains but confidence was soon restored by the speedy advance to Pasighat and those who had fled across the Brahmaputra returned to their homes. A stockade was erected at Balek for the protection of friendly tribesmen.

Hostilities continued during the year between the Minyongs and the Panggis.

20. These tribes are still blockaded with the exception of a few Chulikata villages which have received permission to trade. **Mishmis.**

In the course of a tour in January and February in the direction of Rima, Mr. Williamson found that the Chinese had asserted their authority over all the Tibetan villages in this part of the country and had advanced to within a short distance of Menilkrai, where they had placed two flags to mark what they considered to be the boundary.

21. These tribes remained friendly during the year.

22. A number of the Borduarias, Namsangyas and Bor-Methunias worked on tea-gardens at jungle cutting and gave little trouble. A census was made of the Sarkari Nagas whose territory was annexed in 1903. **Khamptis and Singphos. Nagas.**

23. A raid committed during the previous year on a village under the administration of the Government of Burma was punished by a joint expedition from the Naga Hills and from Burma. The offending village was burnt. The guard stationed at Melomi after the Aishan Kuki expedition of last year was retained. The report of Mr. Hayden of the Geological Survey showed that the coal in this tract is not workable. **Naga Hills.**

Headtaking and raiding amongst trans-frontier villages continued with unabated vigour.

24. The agitator Sonaram lost influence among the Garos generally and his recent attempts to collect money were met by proceeding against his agents who soon ceased their operations. The disforestation of certain areas was sanctioned and house-tax paying Garos have been granted privileges with regard to wood cutting. **Garo Hills.**

25. The growing tendency, to some extent inevitable in view of the rapid strides which the Lushais have made in education in recent years, towards the weakening of the authority of the chiefs was accentuated during the year under report by an ill-advised campaign against certain Lushai customs which was carried on by one of the missionaries. The rising generation of chiefs, however, is being carefully educated and several of them show considerable promise. **Lushai Hills.**

[Consisting of the Jaintia Hills and twenty-five Khasi States:—Bhowal, Cherra, Shella, Khyrim, Mylliem, Langrin, Maharam, Mawiang, Maosanram, Malaisohmat, Mariaw, Nobosohphoh, Nongklaw, Nongspung, Nongstoin, Rambrai, Jirang, Dwara-Nongtyrnem, Maodon, Mawlong, Pomsangut, Langiong, Mauphlang, Nonglwai and Sohiong. Total population 235,069.]

26. The Siems have generally behaved well, but the Siems of Mawsanram and Nongspung continued to seek opportunities of extending the boundaries of their territory. **Khasi and Jaintia Hills.**

Census operations aroused some opposition where it was feared that the Census divisions would have some value as evidence in a boundary suit though it was carefully explained that this impression was erroneous.

Disputes about the possession of villages are inevitable until the boundaries of all the States are finally settled. The people usually claim to belong to the State from which their ancestors originally emigrated, and as a village is often composed of emigrants from several different States, the settlement of disputes is a puzzling matter.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the People.

(*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1910-1911; Prices and Wages in India.)

27. The general conditions of the year were on the whole favourable to cultivation. In the Dacca Division floods caused some damage to summer crops, to jute and to winter rice. In the Chittagong Division also some damage was done to autumn rice and to jute. On the whole the winter rice crop was a particularly good done. **Condition of the people.**

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

The year was a favourable one for the cultivator and for the labouring classes. There was some local rise in prices in those districts where the crops were damaged by floods which afforded the agriculturists some compensation for their losses. The labourers also did well, for their wages remained at the same high level, while the price of the chief food-grains was rather lower than in the previous year. A light crop reduced the export of jute but the cultivators received some compensation through a rise in price.

The tendency of labour to move from the west to the east continues. Many Sonthals are reported to have migrated from Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar and settled in the Eastern Duars of Goalpara. There was also a flow of Muhammadan immigrants from Mymensingh and Pabna into the district of Rangpur.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION I.—Realisation of the Revenue.

(*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910-11.)

An account of the total demand and collection of land revenue will be found under Chapter V, Revenue and Finance.

Area and revenue.

28. During the year 1910-11 there was an increase of 131·7 square miles in the revenue-paying area and an increase of Rs. 2,97,121 in the demand.

The incidence of revenue rose from Rs. 394·65 in 1909-10 to Rs. 398·26 during the year.

Permanently-settled estates.

29. There has been little fluctuation in the figures for these estates. A balance of Rs. 1,31,120 was left outstanding at the close of the year, but the whole of this is in process of recovery. The percentage of current collections on current demand exceeded 99 in all districts, except Bakarganj and Sylhet.

Temporarily-settled estates.

30. In Eastern Bengal the area of land settled temporarily with proprietors or farmers was 918,514 acres, yielding a revenue of Rs. 8,03,431. The area settled in Assam rose to 2,709,083 acres and revenue assessed on it to Rs. 54,30,458. Current collections showed a slight improvement and the year closed with an arrear demand which was smaller than that of the previous year by Rs. 1,34,522. The colonisation by Sonthals, Nepalese and other settlers of the Eastern Duars of Goalpara made considerable progress. Under special settlements there was an increase of 1,670 acres in the area settled for special cultivation and an increase of Rs. 1,697 in the revenue. The scheme for the colonisation of the Nambor forest makes slow progress.

Hill Districts.

31. In the Hill Districts there were 12,138 estates with a total revenue demand of Rs. 48,480 as compared with Rs. 11,632 and Rs. 47,176, respectively in the previous year. The total collections rose from Rs. 43,770 in the preceding year to Rs. 47,560.

Remittances of revenue and rent by money orders.

32. The total number of revenue and rent money orders rose from 2,28,904 to 2,35,383, while the aggregate amount of land revenue, rent and cesses remitted fall from Rs. 15,11,924 to Rs. 14,41,970. There was a further decrease in the number of rent money orders refused, and in the value of such orders, which seems to indicate a better understanding between landlords and tenants. During the year the system of transmission of acknowledgments of revenue money orders in unregistered postal covers, instead of in registered covers, was introduced as an experimental measure.

Defaults and Sale Law. (*a*) Eastern Bengal.

33. In Eastern Bengal the number of defaults increased from 5,621 to 7,648 and the number of sales from 496 to 669. In the district of Chittagong alone the number of defaults increased from 3,580 to 4,953. The results of the sale law, however, are different in that district owing to the fact that it contains an enormous number of petty estates. The number of sales in Chittagong was also forced up by orders reducing the minimum limit for which an estate might be sold from Rs. 5 to Re. 1.

The results of the sales that were made in the Bakarganj district are noticeable. There was an increase of Rs. 10,777 in the Government revenue for which the estates sold were responsible and a decrease of Rs. 17,303 in the amount for which they were sold.

The number of certificates issued increased by 3,746, while the percentage of certificates disposed of declined by 3·9. Most of the demands were realized on the mere issue of notices or attachment of property and recourse was had to actual sale in only a few cases.

Seven persons were confined in the civil jail for non-payment of Court of Wards and District Board dues, and one had to be similarly incarcerated for non-payment of Government demand. In the majority of cases the dues were subsequently paid, previous failures having been due to recalcitrancy rather than poverty.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

34. The number of notices of demand issued under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation remained practically stationary as compared with the previous year, being 61,944 in 1910-11 against 62,144 in 1909-10. The number of cases in which property had to be attached decreased, while there was an increase in the number of cases in which property had to be sold.

(*b*) Assam.

Serving of Process.

35. The system of serving processes through the Presidents of Union Panchayats was continued during the year, but proved only a qualified success. The improvement in the Dacca district was considerable.

The payment of fares of process-serving peons out of contingencies was sanctioned as a permanent measure.

Miscellaneous Land Revenue.

36. The total aggregate collection was Rs. 4,85,151 against Rs. 6,21,462 in the previous year. The decrease is chiefly due to the fact that in the previous year large collections were made on account of survey and settlement recoveries in Bakarganj. Rupees 15,854 were remitted during the year as compared with Rs. 2,021 in the previous year.

The revenue from minerals shows a decrease of eight thousand rupees owing to the falling off in the amount of coal and oil extracted.

In Mymensingh partition work has been suspended during the continuance of the Survey and Settlement operations and this has helped to reduce the amount of revenue.

In the Hill Districts the total demand for the year was Rs. 2,36,711 and the total collections amounted to Rs. 2,33,255 as compared with Rs. 2,18,440 and Rs. 2,13,127 in the previous year.

Work Revenue

37. Proceedings in respect of 1,571 acres were confirmed by the Board during the year.

Land Acquisition.

38. Land for the following important projects was under acquisition during the year :—

1. Rifle Range and Cantonment at Dacca.
2. Bhairab-Tangi Branch of the Assam-Bengal Railway.
3. Sinjhani-Fulchari extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.
4. Improvement of the port of Chittagong.
5. Railway Despatch ghats at Faridpur.
6. Talap to Saikhowa line and Chalkhowa station in Lakhimpur.
7. Sara Bridge Project in Pabna.

Loans.

39. Rupees 6,000 were advanced during the year under the Land Improvement Act. Of the total debit Rs. 14,403 was repayable during the year, and of this Rs. 10,780 was realised.

The loans made under the Agriculturists Loans Act amounted to Rs. 1,07,596, and out of a total amount of Rs. 8,19,670 outstanding Rs. 5,01,421 were recoverable during the year. Rupees 3,39,656 were recovered and Rs. 214 remitted, leaving Rs. 1,63,772 overdue at the close of the year.

Other Revenue Work.

40. Rupees 2,15,900 was allotted to the Board of Revenue for the management and improvement of Government estates. A further Rs. 51,000 was set aside for colonisation work in the Sunderbans. This was spent mainly on the constructions of drains and embankments. Weather conditions in the Sunderbans were favourable during the year and the work of reclamation is making fair progress.

Land Registration.—(*a*) Eastern Bengal.

41. The total number of proprietary interests in land entered under the Land Registration Act of 1876 in the registers of the province is 6,79,000 and the majority of these are in the Chittagong district where a separate staff is employed for Land Registration work.

The number of applications for registration filed during the year was 25,629 and the actual number of applications granted amounted to 24,636 or 3·67 of the total number of interests registered.

The expenditure on registration work amounted to Rs. 16,118 and the fees realised to Rs. 629.

(*b*) Assam.

42. The number of cases of changes between proprietors and landholders which were disposed of locally was 39,868, an increase of over six thousand on the figure of the preceding year and the number of cases dealt with in court fell from 11,108 to 9,093.

43. In the districts of Eastern Bengal 724 separate accounts were opened, and at the close of the period under review the number of separate accounts was 35,028 paying a revenue of Rs. 28,31,795. **Separate Accounts during the year.**

44. Out of a total number of 168 cases for disposal in Eastern Bengal only 36 were disposed of. A scheme for the disposal of partition cases by the Settlement Officers is being tried in the district of Faridpur where the 22 pending cases were made over to the Settlement Department at the beginning of the year. **Partitions.**

45. Proceedings under section 58 were instituted against zemindars or their agents who failed to observe the provisions of sections 56 and 57 of the Act. **Working of the Tenancy Act.**

The new procedure permitting the payment of landlords' fees by money order has led to a very considerable improvement in the payment of these fees.

SECTION 2.—Surveys and Settlements.

(*See* Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1911.)

46. The programme in the Lakhimpur district comprised a skeleton survey of 125 square miles of tea gardens, but owing to the difficulty in inducing managers to demarcate their boundaries, the exact limits of which in many cases they did not know, it was impossible to complete more than 64 square miles. The difficulties encountered in the work make it clear how necessary it is that Government should be able to command the services of an efficient survey staff. There is in Assam a class of surveyor known as Government approved surveyors. These men employ assistants over whose qualifications no check whatsoever is exercised with the result that maps are prepared which are based on no scientific method of survey. **Traverse Survey.**

The programme in the Mymensingh district included the traverse of 868 square miles; special precautions were taken to make the stations marked sufficiently permanant to last through the following field season. The chief feature of the country traversed was the extraordinarily small average size of the villages and the irregular nature of their boundaries.

In the Dacca district 351 square miles of country were relaid. Owing to the extraordinary denseness of the Munshiganj basti land the work proved very tedious and the need for fixing a large number of stations increased the cost of the work. In addition to this 221 square miles of Rupganj thana and 808 square miles of the Nator subdivision of the Rajshahi district were traversed.

Traverse surveys were also carried out in Gauhati and Dibrugarh towns, in certain scattered villages in Cachar and in certain Government estates in Sylhet, besides petty surveys in numerous other districts.

47. This office has reached as high a state of efficiency as is compatible with the space available. Nearly three lakhs of maps were produced for the Settlement Department as well as over 65,000 copies for outside Departments. The office is able to undertake a certain amount of work for the general public, and the orders that have been received show that they are willing to pay a good price for good work. **Shillong Drawing Office.**

48. The general question of survey education has been under consideration. It is proposed to draw a definite line between land surveying and engineering surveying and to regulate the teaching of land surveying with special regard to the views of the survey department. **Survey Education.**

49. In Bakarganj operations have been closed and only the report remains to be written. **Cadastral Survey and Settlement. Bakarganj.**

50. Of the objections which continued to pour in during the year only 2,538 out of 26,910 were pending at its close. Great progress was made in the final scrutiny of the record. The printing of the record for final publication was much delayed by the non-arrival of the presses. Good progress was also made in *diara* work, 109 out of 158 estates being assessed. **Faridpur.**

It was impossible to do any partition work owing to the fact that the lands to be partitioned all lay in the area in which objections under section 103A were under disposal.

Jalpaiguri. 51. In this settlement work was hampered by the lack of amins and the inefficiency of the Kanungoes. Twelve of the latter were put through a special survey training in Dacca but ten proved so incompetent that they had to be dismissed.

Mymensingh. 52. A full programme was undertaken and practically completed. In *bujharat* much time was lost owing to the attitude of the tenants in the Alapsingh pargana. They found that the areas recorded in the khatians, although calculated on a scale which they had accepted, were generally larger than those entered in the landlords' papers and refused to attend *bujharat* unless a new scale was adopted.

The records of two thanas have passed through the final scurtiny and over 18,000 khatians have been printed. Partition applications have been so numerous that they threaten to delay final publication.

Dacca. 53. This was the first season's work in Dacca but it included the attestation of the river bank opposite the districts of Faridpur, Pabna and Tippera, of which records had been prepared in connection with Faridpur settlement in the previous year. The programme of field work was 543 square miles and of attestation 210 square miles. This was successfully carried out and 800 objections under section 103A were also decided. In field work, the plots were found to be very small and the tenancies very numerous. Moreover, the area was under water till December so that *bujharat* dragged on till late in the season.

Rajshahi. 54. The work has been postponed for a year.

Collectorate Settlements. 55. Minor operations supervised by district officers and financed from provincial revenues were undertaken in eight districts. *Diara* operations have been commenced in Bakarganj and the assessment of three estates with a proposed revenue of Rs. 2,135 completed. In Noakhali operations were commenced in nine temporarily-settled estates.

General. 56. The usual training class was held in connection with the Mymensingh settlement and was attended by junior members of the civil, provincial, subordinate executive and police services.

Work in Assam. 57. The only work of considerable importance lay in the Lakhimpur which is under re-settlement. The programme for the year consisted of the revenue attestation of 480 villages and record attestation of 648 villages. Revenue attestation was a new departure in Assam but was much appreciated by the villagers. In the case of individual grievances, the Assistant Settlement officers verified the land classification on the spot and made such changes as appeared reasonable. They also explained the rules of progressive enhancement to the raiyats and granted the concession where permissible under the rules.

SECTION 4.—Land Records.

[*See* Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1911.]

Land Records. 58. No progress was made in the formation for a scheme for the preservation of the record-of-rights prepared by the Settlement Department. Shortly after the close of the year the outline of a scheme fermulated by the Director of Land Records was placed before Government which aims at the revival of the kanungo and patwari but the criticisms of those landlords and lawyers before whom it was explained appear to show that it would not command the popularity which is an essential factor in its success.

SECTION 4.—Settlements for Special Cultivation (Waste Lands).

(*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910-1911.)

Settlement for special cultivation. 59. The total area settled for special cultivation in Assam amounted to 1,179,734 acres with a revenue demand of Rs. 7,33,790, showing a satisfactory

increase of 5,508 acres in area and Rs. 8,812 in revenue over the figures of the previous year. The increase in area occurred chiefly in the districts of Cachar, Darrang and Sibsagar. The increase in revenue was mainly due to progressive assessments.

In Chittagong 5,110 acres have been settled for special cultivation. Of this area 4,373 acres were settled for the cultivation of tea, rubber and cotton but the lessees have taken up the cultivation of sugarcane as likely to prove more profitable.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

(*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910-1911.)

Government Estates.

60. There are 1,601 estates held direct by Government in Eastern Bengal, covering an area of 2,634 square miles and yielding a revenue of Rs. 25,16,032. The increase of Rs. 1,62,221 of which Bakarganj alone contributed Rs. 1,29,133, was due to re-settlements, progressive settlements and the assessment of newly cultivated lands.

The scheme for the re-organisation of the Khas Tahsil staff in the district of Bakarganj was given effect to during the year under report.

The amount allotted to the Board for the management and improvement of Government estates was Rs. 2,15,900, of which Rs. 1,000 were set aside for colonisation work in the Nambor forest. Besides this sum Rs. 49,470 was spent on colonisation work in the Bakarganj Sundarbans mainly on the construction and maintenance of drains and embankments for the protection of the land from salt water. Attempts are being made to induce the settlers to do the petty repairs themselves. During the year 346 new colonists were settled on 11,616 bighas of land.

Reclamation is making fair progress in all the area colonised except where man-eating tigers have caused a panic. Rupees 21,908 were realised by the sale of forest produce by the Sundarbans Colonisation Officer.

SECTION 6.—Wards' and Attached Estates.

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Wards', Attached and Trust Estates in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910-1911.]

Revenue, Rent and Cesses.

61. Nine new estates, including those of two of the co-sharers of the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca, were taken under the management of the Court during the year under review and two estates were released, the number under the Court at the end of the year being 54.

The improvement in the payment of revenue and cesses which was noticed last year has not been maintained and only 93·19 of the total demand was paid. The district of Bakarganj is responsible for almost the whole of the balance, *viz.*, Rs. 58,041 out of Rs. 58,336, the worst offenders being the estate of Sir Surendra Mohan Tagore and the Syedpur estate. Payments on account of rent and cesses to superior landlords increased from 62·94 to 70·43 per cent. The Bakarganj estates were again the worst defaulters though they succeeded in slightly reducing their arrears.

Collections.

62. Collections of rents and cesses were not satisfactory. Only 44 per cent. of the total demand, arrear and current, was collected, the whole collections amounting to only 2·9 per cent. more than the current demand. The outstanding arrears are very large, but in many cases the arrear demand represents amounts which are fictitious or irrecoverable. The total demand was Rs. 63,99,341, of which Rs. 28,31,294 was collected.

Debts.

63. The total amount of debts, excluding revenue, rent and cesses, due from estates at the close of the year was Rs. 52,58,299, over three and a half lakhs of rupees having been paid off during the year.

Management charges and improvements.

64. Management charges fell slightly, amounting to 12·2 per cent. of the current demand. It is not possible for estates which are heavily in debt to do much for their tenants, but a reasonable amount was spent on schools and dispensaries by the more solvent estates. Suitable arrangements were made for the education of minor wards.

SECTION 7.—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

(*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1910-1911).

Material condition of the people.

65. The year was on the whole a favourable one for the cultivating and labouring classes. A local rise in prices in those districts in which the crops were damaged by floods compensated the agriculturists for their losses. Elsewhere the price of food-stuffs ruled lower than the average of the last few years and this combined with the high price commanded by labour, to put the labourer in a favourable position.

Working of Tenancy Act.

66. The provisions of sections 56 and 57 of the Act are not yet strictly obeyed by zemindars and their agents. Proceedings under section 58 were instituted in thirteen cases in the Dacca division, some of which ended in conviction and fine. Doubts having arisen as to the exact meaning of section 58(3), a reference was made to the Advocate General who advised that any failure on the part of the landlord to give a fully signed receipt renders him primarily liable but where joint landlords have authorised a common agent to act for them, he and not the landlords will be liable to conviction.

Better registration caused an increase in the number of voluntary transfers and transfers by succession.

A number of applications for the registration were received from colonisation area in the Bakarganj district.

There was a very appreciable improvement in the payment of landlords' fees, which is due to the new procedure prescribed by the Amendment Act of 1908 of sending fees by money order.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Section 1.—Legislating authority.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, pages 119-120.]

Section 2.—Course of Legislation.

67. The following Acts were extended during the year to the places noted against each. Acts.

Agriculturists Loan Act (XII of 1884) to the Lushai Hills ; The Hackney Carriages Act (XIV of 1879) to the Sylhet Municipality.

The Police Act (V of 1861) to the Mokokchang subdivision of the Naga Hills district; section 34 to Sarishabari.

The Bengal Municipal Act (III of 1884), Part VI, with the exception of sections 236 to 244 to the Sherpur Municipality and to Shillong Municipality, Part VII to the Dacca Municipality.

Sections 236 to 244 to certain portions of the Sylhet Municipality and to Shillong Municipality. Part IX to the Tezpur Municipality, and to certain portions of the Brahmanbaria Municipality and to Shillong Municipality. The Act was also extended to the subdivisional town of Goalpara and to the Shillong Municipality.

The Bengal Gambling Act (II of 1867) to Bhairabpur, in the district of Mymensingh.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (XI of 1890) to the district of Pabna.

The Calcutta Hackney Carriage Act (II of 1891) to Jamalpur Municipality.

The Eastern Bengal and Assam Disorderly Houses Act (II of 1907) to certain areas in the town of Rajbari, in the district of Faridpur.

The Press and Registration of Books Act (XXV of 1867) to the Western Duars of the Jalpaiguri district.

The provisions of the Glanders and Farcy Act (XIII of 1899), as amended by the Glanders and Farcy Law Amendment Act (XII of 1910), as regards glanders, farcy and surra, were extended to the districts of Sylhet, Cachar and Kamrup, to the Shillong Station and to the Shillong-Gauhati cart road.

The provisions of the above Acts as regards glanders and farcy only were extended to the districts of Chittagong, Noakhali, Tippera, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bogra, Malda, Goalpara, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar aad Lakhimpur; to the municipalities of Muktagacha, Kamalpur, Nasirabad, Barisal and Faridpur ; to the Sadr and Narayanganj subdivisions of Dacca district.

Regulations II of 1880, V of 1873, II of 1883, IV of 1890 and I of 1886 were extended to the tract added to the Naga Hills by Notification No. 688 of 1st of February 1910. Act XXXIV of 1850 and Act III of 1858 were also extended to the same area.

SECTION 3.—Police.

[*See* Report on the Police Administration of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910 ; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

MILITARY POLICE.

68. The Silchar and Garo Hills Battalions were amalgamated with the Dacca Battalion and an addition of one hundred men was made to the latter to allow of a permanent detachment at Barisal. Strength.

69. The discipline of all the battalions was very satisfactory and, except the Dacca Battalion, the force fully kept up its reputation for efficiency in signalling, shooting and drill. The efficiency of the Dacca Battalion was seriously impaired by the heavy guard duties it had to perform at Dacca and the consequent necessity for bringing detachments from Silchar, Tura and Barisal. Efficiency.

PROTECTION.

In the Lakhimpur Battalion a detachment was trained to act as a movable column and in hill warfare. The results, which were put to the test after the murder of Mr. Williamson, proved highly satisfactory.

Casualties.

70. The number of resignations rose from 49 to 66. In the case of the Dacca Battalion the increase is due to the insufficiency of married quarters. New barracks for this battalion have since been sanctioned and the work is in hand. Desertions rose from one to four and dismissals fell from 23 to 18.

Health.

71. The general health of the force again deteriorated and the change is most marked in the Dacca Battalion where the daily average number of sick in hospital rose from 10 to 32. Hard work and indifferent housing were responsible: happily the number of deaths fell from 37 to 29.

Military Operations.

72. A force of 2 native officers and 100 men under Captain Hamilton escorted Mr. Needham, Subdivisional Officer, Mokokchang, on a tour across the Dikhu. A similar force under Major Bliss escorted Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Woods, Deputy Commissioner of the Naga Hills, into the Kuki country where 80 guns were seized and destroyed. The expedition was entirely successful. A detachment of the Lakhimpur Battalion escorted the late Mr. Williamson, Assistant Political Officer, Sadiya, into an unexplored portion of the Dafla Hills.

Miscellaneous duties.

73. The Dacca Battalion provided a guard-of-honour for His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on three occasions and also a special guard for the prisoners in the Dacca conspiracy case.

Miscellaneous.

74. The Government of India have sanctioned the deputation of a Civil Chief Master Armourer to consider the need for a change of armament and have also sanctioned the enactment of a new Military Police Act.

CIVIL POLICE.

Strength, distribution and cost.

75. The sanctioned strength of the force rose from 10,898 to 11,232. The increase was made up by the recruitment of 7 temporary Superintendents, 6 Assistant Superintendents, 12 Deputy Superintendents, 23 sub-inspectors, 11 head constables and 275 constables. Such an addition to the number of gazetted officers was of prime importance, and its good effects are already felt.

Five hundred and forty-eight officers and men were employed as extra police during the year. Four detachments were posted in the Bikrampur pargana and nine guard-boats patrolled the same area.

Seven hundred and forty-eight officers and men were employed in municipalities, but little or no progress was made with the scheme for substituting constables for town chowkidars.

The total cost of the Police Department (including the military police) during the calendar year 1910 was Rs. 50,42,215 as compared with Rs. 51,19,764 in the previous year. The difference is attributable to the payment in 1909 of the Royal bonus.

The reserves.

76. The strength of the armed reserve remained unaltered, but the constant employment of armed reserve men on work outside the ordinary sphere of their duty and the deputation of a large number to Dacca on special duty reacted on the general efficiency of the force.

An addition of two hundred men was made to the ordinary Reserve but its strength again proved totally inadequate for the duties imposed upon it and the continual absence of the men from headquarters made their proper drilling impossible. Special attention has been given to this subject on the reforms recently sanctioned.

Discipline.

77. Apart from the armed reserves, the force as a whole has but a very meagre knowledge of drill.

On the whole the discipline was good, but Bengali and Assamese constables have very little idea of what discipline means and only "up-country" men can be trusted to carry out orders with precision. The number of departmental punishments rose from 2,617 to 2,723, and the percentage to the actual strength from 24·5 to 25·3.

The increase in the cadre of superior officers which has allowed of Deputy and Assistant Superintendents being posted to subdivisions has made possible the enforcement of a higher standard of discipline in the force and this alone is sufficient to account for the increase.

Judicial punishments totalled 185, as compared with 142 in the preceding year. Two hundred and eleven cases were brought against the police, of which only thirty-four ended in conviction. Four cases of torture or serious ill-treatment were instituted, three of which ended in dismissal or acquittal, and one remained pending. Of seveny-eight charges of extortion decided only ten ended in conviction. These figures go far towards proving that the abuse to which the police are subjected is unmerited and that the general public are prone to overlook the virtues of a body of men whose faults they view with the utmost severity.

Recruitment.

78. There was a further fall in the number of recruits enlisted during the year. The continued failure of the attempts to recruit local men is disappointing.

The average local Mussalman recruit is of poor physique and the right class of men cannot be induced to come forward. The difficulties of recruiting suitable up-country men are also increasing and a special officer has been deputed to enquire into the matter. The general rise in prices and the high rate of wages which obtains in this part of the country have rendered the pay of the constable less attractive.

Casualties.

79. The number of resignations fell from 316 to 278, but is still unduly high. It is highest in the Dacca district, where the proportion of men employed on town work is also highest. The low pay of constables is undoubtedly responsible for the unpopularity of the force and in some districts the men are said to place no value whatever on their appointments.

River police.

80. During the year an elaborated scheme for extending the operation of the river police and increasing its strength was submitted to the Government of India and has since been sanctioned. Little progress can be recorded with regard to the actual formation of an effective police force. A number of local Muhammadans and boatmen were enlisted but when sent out to work on launches to patrol the routes taken by jute boats, they became discontented and finally resigned in a body. The work of jute protection was carried out on the same lines as in previous years and with similarly successful results. No dakaiti was reported from any place within the area patrolled.

Training Schools.

81. It has been decided to construct a combined training school at Sarda in the Rajshahi district to replace the schools at present in existence. Land has been acquired and the construction of the necessary buildings is in progress.

Rural police.

82. The work of the village chaukidar continued to prove unsatisfactory The police complain that the chaukidar looks for orders to the panchayats rather than the officer in charge of the police station. On the other hand, it is only too clear that Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors rarely attempt to enter into friendly relations with village headmen or to induce them to co-operate in the detection and prevention of crime. An increase in the pay of chaukidars, a decrease in their numbers and a more liberal distribution of rewards to those men who do good work are the most promising means of improving the efficiency of a force which costs 35 lakhs of rupees a year to the tax-payer of the province and is in many districts little more than an incompetent agency for the registration of births and deaths. During the year 40 per cent. of the chaukidars were punished. Judicial punishments numbered 219 and dismissals 849.

Crime statistics.

83. Fifty-three thousand three hundred and seventy-nine cases were enquired into during the year, of which seventy-four per cent. were investigated by the police, and of these 38·9 per cent. were sent up for trial, against 40·2 per cent. in 1909. In most of the districts the detection of crime was not satisfactory and this comparative failure is mainly due to the lack of local knowledge on the part of investigating officers, inefficient methods of investigation and want of supervision.

PROTECTION.

Fourteen thousand and eighteen police cases were decided during the year and 81·8 per cent. ended in conviction. Of the cases tried by Courts of Sessions the percentage of conviction was 73·7. These figures are on the whole very creditable, especially considering the high standard of evidence required by the courts.

There was a satisfactory decrease of 446 cases in the number of serious crimes. Riots decreased by 74, robberies by 20, and thefts by 639. On the other hand, burglaries increased by 359. The value of property stolen increased from Rs. 13,85,068 to Rs. 14,88,382, while that of the property recovered fell from Rs. 1,92,688 to Rs. 1,84,794, the percentage being 22·6 as compared with 23·7 in 1909.

These results compare poorly with those of other provinces and figures for Eastern Bengal are distinctly worse than for Assam, but it must be remembered that the increase in the amount of property stolen is partly due to the dakaities committed by youths of the middle classes in the district of Eastern Bengal, in which hardly any of the stolen property was recovered.

False cases.

84. The complainants were prosecuted in only 196 of 1,450 cases declared by Magistrates to be maliciously false. A comparison of the figures for different districts indicates that insufficient attention is paid to the importance of checking the institution of false cases. The same inference is to be drawn from the fact that compensation under section 250 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was awarded in only 87 cases.

Criminal Investigation Department.

85. The reserve office of the Department was entirely reorganized during the year and the preliminary steps taken for the establishment of a provincial photographic bureau. The staff of the department was increased during the year by 5 Inspectors, 21 Sub-Inspectors and 55 constables. An up-country Sub-Inspector was employed to aid in the work connected with up-country criminals. The department was eminently successful in the results of the gang cases which were instituted, 39 persons out of 46 who were on trial being sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

"Political" Crime.

86. This was chiefly concentrated in the districts of the Dacca Division. Among cases connected with the agitation and its developments were—one attempted murder, 5 dakaities, 15 prosecutions under the Arms Act and one under the Explosives Act. At the end of the year 46 persons were put on trial in what is called the Dacca Conspiracy case. The conduct of the public in regard to the dakaities was apathetic in the extreme and instances were even brought to light of tenants having been warned by their landlords not to give evidence against persons of the *bhadralok* class who were suspected.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice.

Plains Districts.

(*See* Report on the Administration of the Criminal Justice in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1910; Statistics of British India, Part VI.)

Judicial Staff.

87. Thirteen Sessions Judges and three additional Sessions Judges were employed throughout the year, besides Additional Sessions Judges employed temporarily at Dacca, Faridpur and Pabna-Bogra, and three Subordinate Judges exercised the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge at Dacca, Tippera and Sylhet.

The Magisterial Staff consisted of 225 stipendiary and 292 Honorary Magistrates, a decrease of 7 and 12 respectively. One hundred and fifty eight of the stipendiary Magistrates exercised first class, 45 second class and 22 third class powers.

The 292 Honorary Magistrates manned 53 benches.

Offences reported.

88. One lakh thirty four thousand seven hundred and thirty criminal offences were reported during the year, an increase of 3,324 on the figures of 1909, and offences under the Penal Code increased by 3,591.

Results of Enquiry.

89. The number of cases found to be false after trial or in which complaints were dismissed was 47,930, or 35·5 per cent. of the number reported, as against 33·8 per. cent. in 1909. Eighty-five thousand six hundred and thirty cases were declared true and 61,468 cases were brought to trial.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

1—*Magistrates' Courts.*

90. Sixty-one thousand four hundred and eighty-one cases were brought to trial during the year and 61,174 were disposed of. The number of cases brought to trial was 415 more than in 1909. Eight hundred and ninety three cases were committed or referred to the Sessions and 60,281 disposed of finally by Magistrates; 44·6 per cent. of the persons accused being convicted against 45·3 per cent. in 1909. **Cases disposed of.**

The number of disposal by District Magistrates again showed an increase and this is doubtless due to the valuable assistance given to the criminal administration by the appointment of Additional Magistrates in the larger districts.

The number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1910 was 6,207, as compared with 5,470 in 1909.

91. The sentences passed by Magistrates were as follows:— **Punishment.**

Imprisonment	Rigorous	9,755
	Simple	326
Fine	With imprisonment	1,633
	Without imprisonment	25,838
Whipping	Sole punishment	205
	Additional punishment	14

In 123 cases solitary confinement was ordered.

One thousand two hundred and sixty-eight persons were ordered to find securities for their good behaviour and 1,212 were imprisoned in default,

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 4,15,746. During the year Rs. 3,83,125 were realized and Rs. 63,636 paid to complainants as compensation.

92. There were 2,214 proceedings under chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code, involving 8,029 persons. These numbers were less than those of the previous year by 637 and 2,947 respectively, and 3,118 persons were bound over to keep the peace. **Miscellaneous proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.**

In 688 cases, 1,765 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour and 1,348 were required to do so, of whom 1,290 were imprisoned in default.

Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code numbered 429 and in the cases of 206 persons a reference was made to a jury.

Seven hundred and ninety-nine cases involving possession of land were decided by magistrates under Chapter XII of the Code. These figures show a decrease of 101 on those of 1909.

Under section 250, 373 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to the accused.

Proceedings for maintenance were taken against 400 persons and the orders were made absolute against 152.

93. Two lakhs thirty-eight thousand nine hundred and forty-one witnesses were examined as compared with 240,782 in 1909. Of these 30·3 per cent. were discharged without examination, 72·3 per cent. of those examined on the first day, 19·8 per cent. on the second day, 5 9 per cent. on the third day and 2 per cent. after the third day. **Witnesses.**

The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 2,075 more than the number so detained in 1909.

II.—Courts of Sessions.

94. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 893 and the number disposed of, including pending cases, was 882. At the **Commitments, etc.**

close of the year 122 cases were pending. As in previous years, the number of commitments was largest in Mymensingh.

Results of trials. 95. The number of persons under trial before courts of sessions during the year was 2,127 or 94 less than in 1909.

The cases of 1,792 persons were decided, 1,099 being convicted or 61·3 per cent. against 56·6 in 1909.

Punishment. 96. The cases of 53 persons were referred to the High Court.

The following sentences were passed :—

Death		18
Transportation	For life	94
	For a term of years ...	16
Imprisonment	Rigorous	893
	Simple	5
Fine		24
Whipping		2

The sentences of ten persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment included periods of solitary confinement.

Besides the above, 78 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (1 for a term not exceeding one year and 77 for terms between one and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour.

Fines to the amount of Rs. 3,775 were imposed, as compared with Rs. 4,985 imposed in 1909.

The total realizations amounted to Rs. 997 as compared with Rs. 1,044 in 1909.

Juryt rials. 97. The number of persons tried by juries in 1910 was 665.

The Sessions Judges agreed with the juries in respect of 501 persons and disagreed with in respect of 164 persons and referred to the High Court those of 35 persons, when they disagreed.

98. The number of persons tried with the aid of Assessors was 935. In the case of 605 persons the Sessions Judge agreed with the opinion of both Assessors, and disagreed in the case of 168. In the case of 162 he differed from the opinion of both. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,060, 742, 162, and 156, respectively.

Duration of cases. 99. The average duration of sessions trials was 37.6 days as compared with 40.9 days in the preceding year.

Witnesses. 100. The number of witnesses in attendance was 16,677. Of these 7,276 were discharged without examination. In 1909 the corresponding figures were 9,531 and 8,136, respectively.

Of the total number in attendance the percentage discharged on the first day was 48·8, on the second 28·9, on the third 11·5, and after the third day 10·8.

This is an improvement on the preceding year's figures.

APPELLATE JURISDITCION.

1.—*High Court.*

Appeals before the High Court. 101. At the beginning of 1910, 21 appeals were pending before the High Court. 445 were preferred during the year and 427 decided.

The numbers prefered and decided were 11 more and 6 less, respectively, than those of 1909.

The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 319 cases, reversed in 42 and modified in 62.

The percentage of appellants who were entirely unsuccessful was 76·1, against 79·9 in 1909.

II.—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

102. At the beginning of the year 134 appeals were pending before the Courts of Session. Two thousand seven hundred and seventy-five were preferred during the year, five appeals received on remand from the High Court, 2,767 appeals were decided and 145 left pending at its close. The number of appeals preferred to Sessions Judges was fewer by 105 than in 1909.

Four thousand five hundred and nine persons were concerned in the appeals before Sessions Judges.

The appeals of 1,185 or 23·2 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 1,705 appellants were entirely unsuccessful; 669 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence and 892 were acquitted. In the case of 55 appellants a new trial or further enquiry was ordered and three were referred to the High Court.

The proportion of persons who were entirely unsuccessful, or who obtained a modification or a reversal of the original orders, was 64, 14·8 and 19·7 respectively. These results were slightly less favourable to appellants than in the preceding year.

Magistrates' Courts.

103. One hundred and twenty-two appeals were pending in the courts of Magistrates at the beginning of the year. During the year 2,280 appeals were preferred and 2,284 decided.

Three thousand nine hundred and twenty-three persons were concerned in appeals before Magistrate's Courts. The appeals of 520 persons were summarily dismissed and the sentences of 1,922 confirmed: 62·2 per cent. were wholly unsuccessful, 14·5 per cent. partially successful and 22 per cent. were acquitted. New trials or further enquiries were granted to 45.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

Reference under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

104. Twenty-one references from the verdict of juries were decided in the year. The verdicts were accepted in nine cases, set aside in ten and modified in one, one case being returned for a second trial.

Reference under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

105. Seventeen references involving eighteen persons were decided during the year. The death sentence on ten persons was confirmed, and in three instances commuted to transportation for life. Three were convicted of minor offences and sentenced to imprisonment and two were acquitted.

Revision.

106. Eighteen cases were pending for the orders of the High Court at the beginning of the year and eight at its end.

In 72 cases the orders sent up for revision were quashed. In 23 cases a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 29 cases and enhanced in two. In 41 cases the High Court refused to interfere.

Orders were passed under section 435 of the Criminal Procedure Code in 590 cases, an increase of 110 on the figures of the previous year.

In 586 of these the High Court interposed on application and in four of its own motion on a review of the periodical statements submitted by the Sessions Judge or otherwise. Three hundred and eighteen applications for the issue of rules were rejected and 268 granted. Of these 89 were discharged and 79 made absolute. Orders were modified in 43, eleven proceedings were quashed and in 46 cases a new trial was ordered.

Applications for transfer.

107. Thirty-nine applications for transfer were disposed of. Twelve were summarily rejected. Eleven were refused consideration and 16 were granted.

II.—Court Subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

108. The cases of 4,575 persons were taken up on revision 528 less than in 1909. The applications of 1,588 persons were rejected and the orders of the lower court were confirmed as regards 1,594. Orders passed in the cases of 37 persons were reversed, in 14 instances the proceedings were quashed and in nine the order of the lower courts was modified. One thousand and four teen persons were granted new trials or further enquiries and the cases of 319 persons were referred to the High Court.

Magistrates' Courts.

109. Dealt with 2,745 persons, an increase of 567 over the figure 1909, applications of 653 were rejected, and in regard to 1,123 the original orders of the courts were upheld.

Sentences affecting 32 persons were modified and in respect of 202 reversed. In the cases of 694 persons new trials or further enquiries were ordered.

The cases of 41 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British Subjects.

110. Seven European British subjects were tried during the year, against 11 of the preceding year. None claimed to be tried by a mixed jury and all were dealt with by Magistrates, four being acquitted and three convicted,—two for offences relating to the human body and the third under "special and local laws."

Offences against the State.

111. Forty-eight persons, against 17 in 1909, were put on trial for offences against the State. Of these, three were acquitted, one was discharged and forty-four remained under trial at the end of the year.

These forty-four persons are the accused in the Dacca Conspiracy Case.

Receipst and charges.

112. The total receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 8,75,477, and the charges to Rs. 15,52,847. The receipts exceed those of 1909 by over seventy-seven thousand rupees, and the charges show a decrease of over thirty-eight thousand rupees.

References of Government under section 401, Criminal Procedure Code.

113. During the year under report, as in the previous year, a number of applications were made to Government for the exercise of the prerogative of mercy, under the provisions of section 401, Criminal Procedure Code. Most of these were unsupported prayers or denials received from prisoners in jail, through the Inspector-General of Prisons, and in all these cases His Honour declined to interfere. On the recommendation of the High Court, two sentences of transportation for life were commuted to rigorous imprisonment for ten and eight years respectively.

In two cases suspension of sentence was granted for various periods to facilitate a prolonged enquiry into systematic crime.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

Criminal justice in Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

114. One thousand five hundred and six offences were reported during the year in the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts. Two thousand and seventy-seven persons were put on their trial, of whom 1,428 were convicted. The total number of applicants for revision of sentence and appellants was 137. The appeals of 57 were summarily rejected. In the cases of 28 the order was confirmed, and in the case of 32 the sentence was reduced or reversed. Five cases were disposed of by the Local Government. In three of these the finding of the District Magistrate was altered.

SECTION 5.—Jails.

[*See* Report on the Jail Administration in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

General.

115. The number of jails and sub-jails remained the same as in the previous year.

The year opened with 7,975 prisoners of all classes in confinement. The number of admissions and discharges were respectively 579 and 149 less than in the previous year and the year closed with 7,972 prisoners in the jails. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes aggregated 8,136·16 or 242·83 more than the corresponding figure in the previous year. There has been a steady rise in the jail population since the formation of the province.

Of the convicts admitted, 65·12 per cent. were Muhammadans, 32·10 per cent. were Hindus or Sikhs, ·20 per cent. Buddhists or Jains and ·12 per cent. Christians.

116. Of the juvenile offenders sent to jail during the year, 41 were boys and 9 girls. Magistrates in several districts still fail to see the pernicious effects of sending juveniles to prison for short periods. Juvenile Offenders.

117. There were 22 escapes in 1910, 9 from inside and 13 from outside the jails. Discipline.

The total number of offences committed by convicts was 8,078 or 1,494 more than in the previous year. Offences relating to work increased by 1,211, while offences relating to assaults decreased by 89. The large increase in the number of minor offences is attributed to the greater care taken in enforcing discipline and in reporting offences committed by prisoners.

118. Notwithstanding a very appreciable decrease in the number and rate of admissions to hospital, the daily average sick rate and the mortality rate have risen. The chief causes of the increased mortality were dysentery and tubercle, the spread of which was aided by the excessive overcrowding which prevailed in all the jails, but which was most marked in Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Barisal and Comilla. The daily average of population has risen by nearly 1,000 since 1905. So rapid an increase could not be anticipated, and in consequence the accommodation available in the jails has been severely taxed and it has not been possible to keep pace with the growing demand. There is no doubt that the unsatisfactory health of prisoners has been due in a great measure to overcrowding. Health.

119. An average of 2,993·59 prisoners, or 42·53 per cent. were employed daily on manufactures and 267·69, or 3·8 per cent. on remunerative extra-mural work. The cash earnings of the year were Rs. 1,54,269, against Rs. 2,80,681 in the previous year. The decrease is due partly to the fall in the earnings of the Jail Press, but mainly to the fact that the cash earnings of 1909 were abnormal, and include the recovery of old debts (Rs. 40,000) outstanding from previous years. Employment.

The industries of the Central Jail at Rampur-Boalia were fully reorganized during the year. This jail is now in a position to meet all the requirements of the Jail Department for blankets and prison clothing. In the Dacca Central Jail good progress was made in blacksmithy and carpentry. Paddy husking machinery has been installed in the Barisal Jail.

120. The total expenditure on guarding and maintaining the prisoners was Rs. 7,25,030, against Rs. 8,29,594 in the previous year. Finance.

The average cost per head of the jail population was Rs. 89-2-0 or Rs. 16 less than in the previous year. The net cost of the jails was Rs. 4,84,904.

SECTION 6.—Civil Justice.

[*See* Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1910; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

121. The permanent staff consisted of 13 District and Sessions Judges, 3 Additional District and Sessions Judges, 24 Subordinate Judges and 143 Munsifs. In addition, 7 executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge and 22 those of a Munsif. A Special Judge was employed in the District of Bakarganj to hear appeals against the decisions of Settlement Officers. Additional District and Sessions Judges were also employed temporarily at Dacca, Faridpur and temporary Additional Subordinate Judges in Mymensingh and Chittagong for periods of six and three months respectively. The permanent Staff.

Temporary Additional Munsifs were employed at Narayanganj, Iswarganj, Jamalpur, Patiya, Sunamganj and Serajganj.

122. During the year the number of original suits instituted was 429,439, an increase of 45,240 on the figures of the previous year. Two hundred and nineteen thousand two hundred and twenty-four were suits for money or moveables, 164,430 for rent and 45,785 title and other suits; the total value being Rs. 42,55,293. Original Jurisdiction.

123. In Mymensingh, Dacca, Tippera and Bakarganj over 40,000 suits were instituted. Local Distribution.

Disposal of Suits.

124. The suits for disposal numbered 520,811 and those disposed of 421,246, being increases of 56,146 and 41,721 over the figures of 1909.

The number of suits disposed of fell off in only two districts.

Duration of Suits.

125. All the Courts show an increase in the duration of the contested suits disposed of. In uncontested suits there was an improvement in all courts above those of Munsifs.

Pending suits.

126. The number of pending suits at the close of the year was 99,600, an increase of over 14,000 over the previous year's figures; of these 1,108 had been pending for more than a year. These delays are attributed to over-readiness to grant adjustments at the request of the parties and to the procrastination in executing commissions.

Execution proceedings.

127. Two hundred and seventy-six thousand and sixty applications for the execution of decrees were made during the year and 55,863 were pending from the previous year. In 146,028 cases the proceedings led to no result, 83·1 per cent. being infructuous in the south district of Dacca.

The coercive measures employed were imprisonment of judgment-debtors in 111 cases, arrest followed by release in 706 cases, sale of moveable property in 7,820 cases, sale of immoveable property in 26,244 and attachment of property in 21,167.

Miscellaneous cases.

128. Thirty-six thousand two hundred and thirty-five cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings were instituted during the year. The increase in the number of applications for the deposit of rent was marked.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—The High Court.

129. The total number of appeals for disposal by the High Court was 4,908. Of these 1,087 were decided and 3,821 remained pending at the close of the year. Appellants were entirely unsuccessful in 77·5 per cent. of appeals.

II.—Subordinate Courts.

130. The proportion of appeals actually instituted to appealable decisions was 21·6 per cent. The number of appeals was 10,846, less than in 1909 by 2,530. In Bakarganj the number of appeals diminshed by 1,784, the majority of appeals in the previous year being against the decisions of Settlement Officers. In this district there was an increase of 1,231 in the number of appeals disposed of. The total number of appeals disposed of was 13,028.

General.

131. The features of the year's working were the large increase in the number of suits instituted and the improved outturn of original and appellate work on contest.

The year's working of the civil courts resulted in a profit of Rs. 43,72,367. Receipts increased by nearly six lakhs of rupees and expenditure fell slightly.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

Civil Justice in Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

132. The number of Civil suits instituted in the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts was 1,635 and their aggregate value, Rs. 1,71,651. One thousand six hundred and seventy-one suits were disposed of during the year, leaving 225 pending at its close. Ninety-four appeals were instituted during the year 1910 and the total for disposal was 106. Of these 86 were disposed of, the decrees of the lower courts being confirmed in 62 cases, modified in 8 and reversed in 7.

SECTION 7.—Registration.

[*See* Statistical returns of the Registration Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Offices.

133. Two hundred and fifty-five offices were at work at the close of the year 1910 as compared with 247 and 234 at the close of the year 1909 and 1908. Six of these offices are experimental and will be closed if the results

are not satisfactory. Offices are most numerous in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions ; the explanation of the large number of office s(22) in the Noakhali district lies in the number of islands, many of which are sufficiently populous to require sub-registry offices.

Administration.

134. The grading of sub-registrars was re-adjusted with effect from the 1st of June 1910 and the two sub-registrars and one probationer, at an annual cost of Rs. 12,500, were added to the cadre. Rules were drawn up for the delivery of registered documents by post when this was to the convenience of parties, but little or no use has been made of the facilities offered.

Special sub-registrars and *ex-officio* sub-registrars have been invested with all the powers of a District Registrar save those laid down in section 68 of the Act. By this order special sub-registrars are now empowered to hear appeals from subordinate sub-registrars under section 72 of the Act and *ex-officio* sub-registrars at headquarter stations in Assam are now able to relieve the District Registrar of a good deal of the routine work.

Documents registered.

135. The total number of documents registered fell from 889,311 in 1909 to 8,75,974 in 1910, the decrease being under all heads except the registration of sales of property, both moveable and immoveable. The decrease in the number of mortgages registered is attributable generally to the improved condition of the people resulting from a good harvest and a consequent fall in the price of food stuffs, and in Chittagong to the increasing tendency of the people to engage in trade. The steady fall in the registration of documents which are classed as miscellaneous is due to the opening of Muhammadan Registry offices and the impetus given to the registration of ceremonies at such offices. The Survey and Settlement operations in the districts of Faridpur and Bakarganj caused the number of miscellaneous operations other than registration to increase considerably as there were a number of applications for certified copies.

Finance.

136. Receipts fell from Rs. 9,66,485 in 1909 to Rs. 9,48,854 in 1910. This was due mainly to the fall in registrations and in a minor degree to the prohibition of the unauthorised practice of charging inspection fees on all documents, irrespective of whether inspection was asked for or not. Expenditure remained practically stationary at Rs. 5,87,744. Enquiries made by the Inspector-General of Registration into the cost of the Registration Department as compared with the Departments of other provinces have proved that the cost of registration per document in this province compares favourably with the cost in other provinces. On the other hand, there is reason to fear that the wages at present paid to clerks and mohurrirs are not adequate and tend to foster dishonesty and a system of illicit gratuities.

General.

137. Sub-registrars and their staff often experience considerable difficulty in securing residences in rural areas. Accordingly sanction has been given to the acquisition of sufficient land to accommodate the staff when sites for new offices are acquired. Officers desirous of building houses will be permitted to do so on payment of ground rent.

The rapid accumulation of records in district record rooms has necessitated the frequent extension of record rooms. To meet the difficulty proposals have been submitted that Registers I to IV should be maintained in two parts, documents of merely transitory value being preserved in a separate volume which should be destroyed after a term of years.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

138. Although there has been a considerable expansion since 1906 in the registrations effected under this Act, the excessive gratuities demanded by many Muhammadan Registrars has had a deterrent effect on registrations. The substitution of fixed fees in all cases for the present system of combined fees and gratuities would seem to promise a solution of the present complaints of extortionate demands. The success of a Muhammadan Marriage Registry office depends largely on the personal qualifications of the Registrar, and every effort is being made to improve their status and qualifications. They are now required to pass an examination in the provisions of the Registration and Kazis Acts and the rules thereunder within two years of their appointment, while those who have not passed the final examination of the Arabic

Chap. III.

PROTECTION.

Department of a Madrassa are obliged to undergo a general examination in Muhammadan law.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

139. During the year under review which closed with 145 companies at work there was an increase of 17 companies registered under Act VI of 1882 and a decrease of Rs. 2,17,606 in the aggregate paid up capital which amounted to Rs. 55,79,720. The most noticeable feature of the year's working was the large number of Insurance Companies registered under the Act. Five such companies were registered in Chittagong alone, and it seems doubtful if the law, as it at present stands, provides for sufficient supervision over companies of this class.

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration.

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipalities in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1910-1911; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

General.

140. The Shillong Station and the Goalpara Municipality were converted into municipalities under Act III of 1884.

Parts VI, VII and IX were brought into operation in the Shillong Municipality, of which the limits were considerably extended. Parts VI and IX were introduced into the Dacca and Goalpara Municipalities, respectively, and new bye-laws were framed under section 350 in several towns.

The figures of the attendances at Municipal meetings are disappointing. The average percentage of attendance dropped appreciably in every division, except the Assam Valley, and eleven Municipal Boards failed to hold a meeting a month.

Taxation.

141. The revision of the assessment in Dacca led to an increase in the tax on holdings by Rs. 51,150 and in the latrine tax of Rs. 8,261. The average incidence of taxation per head of population declined from Re. 1-9-5 to Re. 1-8-8.

The obstinate adherence of some towns to less suitable forms of taxation and the failure of others to impose reasonable rates are hopeless bars to improvement and progress, and until they are removed, the municipalities concerned can expect no assistance from Provincial revenues.

Income.

142. Ordinary revenues increased by Rs. 1,18,533. Grants from Government amounted to Rs. 3,17,234. This included a grant of one lakh for the Dacca water-supply scheme, Rs. 60,000 for the Barisal water-works, Rs. 20,000 for Dacca roads and Rs. 18,000 for the improvement of the Shillong water supply.

Expenditure.

143. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 17,70,079, as compared with Rs. 20,33,854 in 1909-10. The most important variation was a reduction of nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in the capital outlay on water-supply, due to the fact that four out of the five lakhs of rupees for the Dacca water-supply had been spent during the previous year.

Water-supply.

144. The Dacca water-supply scheme was completed. The town is now equipped with excellent water-works, which are believed capable of meeting all requirements for many years to come. The Commissioners of the Narayanganj Municipality have decided to add a new pumping engine to their water-works. The cost will be met by a loan from Government. Schemes for the improvement of the Mymensingh water-works and for the construction of water-works at Barisal have been put in hand.

Little progress was made with the Chittagong artesian water-supply scheme owing to the difficulty of filtering out the iron with which the water is impregnated.

Conservancy and Drainage.

145. During the rains of the year under report the Dacca conservancy tramway line sank in several places, and traffic was interrupted. The line has now been ballasted, wooden sleepers substituted for iron and an Inspector appointed. A European Sanitary Inspector was appointed in the Shillong Municipality.

Financial position.

146. The actual aggregate balances, excluding the value of uncashed cheques, amounted to Rs. 3,66,213 or Rs. 88,695 more than in the preceding

year. The Bajitpur, Pirojpur and Pabna Municipalities ended the year in an unsound financial position. The Chittagong and Chandpur Municipalities finally paid off their loan liabilities during the year.

147. The report of the Examiner of Local Funds indicates little improvement in Municipal methods of accounts and financial administration. Insufficient attention has been paid to the criticisms and advice contained in the report for the preceding year. Collections are defective and remissions too liberal. Responsible officers do not appear to have taken sufficient trouble to understand the rules. **Audit.**

148. The record of the year's work cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Little use has been made of the advice of the Sanitary Experts of Government and in sanitation, except in the matter of water-supply, practically no advance was made. Several municipalities in which the rate of taxation was unduly low declined to further works of public utility by a contribution which would have secured liberal aid from Government and while pleading poverty as an excuse deliberately refrained from altering either the rate or the method of their assessments. **General.**

SECTION 9.—District and Local Boards.

[*See* Resolution on the working of District and Local Boards in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1910-1911; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

149. The District and Local Boards in the Province remained unaltered both in number and constitution. The representation of Muhammadans on the Boards of Eastern Bengal continued to improve, the percentage of members of that community rising from 42·8 to 43·16. The nine Union Committees in the Chittagong division were given small grants by the District Boards for expenditure on minor village works. **General.**

150. The opening balance of the District and Local Boards amounted to Rs. 15,77,759. Their receipts amounted to Rs. 51,45,126 and their expenditure to Rs. 52,61,786. The ordinary income of the year was Rs. 47,56,163 or Rs. 1,56,775 in excess of the figures for the preceding year. The financial stringency which in the preceding year had compelled the Local Government to curtail its grants for primary education relaxed sufficiently to allow of more generous allotments, which raised the proportion of the total income of Boards derived from Provincial revenues from 28·8 to 30·08 in Eastern Bengal and from 32·1 to 33·83 in Assam. Receipts from tolls on ferries and roads fell by over Rs. 22,000. The decrease in the Assam Valley is attributed to lack of competition. **Finances.**

The ordinary expenditure of the year was Rs. 47,90,404, a decrease of Rs. 2,45,157 as compared with the figures of 1909-1910. In that year the Boards were compelled to draw largely on their balances and an anxiety not to trench further on these was probably the chief cause of the curtailment of expenditure. The number of uncashed cheques remaining at the close of the year was still unduly high in the case of many Boards, but the results attained in Bakarganj by the efforts of the District Engineer show what can be done. The amount of uncashed cheques at Bakarganj was only Rs. 3,368.

151. The aggregate expenditure on Education represented 28·4 per cent. of the total income as compared with 30 per cent. in the preceding year. The number of unqualified teachers at present employed in the Board's schools is a matter which does not appear to have engaged the attention of these bodies. Female education made some headway in the Surma Valley and the Dacca and Bogra districts, but elsewhere progress appears to have been checked. **Education.**

Except in the case of the Kashikishor Technical School at Mymensingh no advance was made in the important matter of technical education and this despite the repeated exhortations of Government.

152. During the year under review the accounts of Dispensary Cmmittees were separated from the accounts of the parent local bodies. The number of maintained and aided dispensaries fell from 328 to 322, the decrease being due **Medical.**

to the closing of twelve dispensaries in Bakarganj in prosecution of the Boards' scheme, reorganisation and concentration.

Lady doctors were employed by Boards to a still greater extent than before but qualified candidates were not always forthcoming.

Sanitation. 153. The expenditure on sanitation, exclusive of water-supply, was only Rs. 22,392. A scheme for the improvement of the subdivisional headquarters at Manikganj received the approval of Government after the close of the year and a contribution of Rs. 6,000 has been made from Provincial revenues.

Water-supply. 154. Expenditure on the improvement of water-supply fell from Rs. 3,13,867 to Rs. 2,46,356. Of this decrease, Rs. 56,613 occurred in the Rajshahi division.

As the Sanitary Board gave liberal grants to assist the local authorities, the failure to maintain the progress shown in 1909-1910 is disappointing. Another promising feature of the preceding year was the recognition of the importance of regular working plans, but little appears to have been done in the year under report. A new and simpler form of warter-supply register has been prescribed and maps showing at a glance the nature of the water-supply in each village area will be prepared.

The success of the Mymensingh District Board in insisting on local contributions was again demonstrated.

Drainage. 155. The total sum spent on drainage was only Rs. 8,566.

Railways. 156. Two light railway projects were taken into consideration during the year. A survey has been made of a line from Faridpur to Bhánga. In the case of the proposed line from Barisal to Nawpára, the District Board have proposed that Messrs. Martin & Co. should take up the construction of the line, the Board guaranteeing 4 per cent. interest on the outlay and taking a half share of any profits above 4 per cent.

Veterinary. 157. Veterinary charges increased from Rs. 44,303 to Rs. 48,249. In the Rajshahi division the people do not seem to appreciate the services of the veterinary staff, but in most parts of the province they are freely utilised.

Industrial development. 158. Little or no attempt was made to encourage industries. A so-called Industrial Exhibition was held at Jaintia, but it was almost purely agricultural in character. The Salvation Army looms purchased by the Jorhat Local Board have been allowed to lie idle. The automatic looms purchased by the Bakarganj District Board could not be used owing to the impossibility of obtaining a skilled instructor. At Noakhali an incubator and brooder were purchased in order to encourage poultry farming, but no use was made of them. The man appointed to teach cane and bamboo work at Mymensingh went on leave and did not return. Altogether the record is a very melancholy one.

Audit. 159. The report of the Examiner of Local Funds shows that there has been but little improvement in the keeping of accounts. Most of the improper practices and unsound methods to which exception was taken in the previous report were still found to exist.

The year's working. 160. The results of the year's working are disappointing. The excuse of lack of funds is wanting and the explanation is rather to be sought in the absence of system and the want of considered programmes of development on broad lines.

Section 10.—Military (Volunteering).

Volunteer Corps. 161. The undermentioned Volunteer Corps were in existence during 1910-1911 :—

1. Surma Valley Light Horse.
2. Assam Valley Light Horse.
3. Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles (detachment).
4. Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles.
5. Assam-Bengal Railway Volunteer Rifles.
6. Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteer Rifles (Presidency Brigade).

The total number of volunteers was :—

Officers	153
Rank and File	2,135

These were made up as follows :—

Corps.	Officers.	Rank and file.	Reservists.		Remarks.
			Officers.	Rank and file.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Surma Valley Light Horse	34	311	6	10	
Assam Valley Light Horse	34	518	6	131	
Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles.	20	285	Nil	70	
Assam-Bengal Railway Volunteer Rifles.	26	404	2	21	
Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles.	18	174	Nil	33	In this area but under Presidency Brigade.
Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteer Rifles.	7	163	Nil	15	
Total ...	139	1,855	14	280	

Brigade staff.

162. Major-General H. Bower, C.B., Commanding the Brigade, went on leave in April 1910 and returned in December 1910 and resumed command of the Brigade from Brevet Colonel A. R. Denne, 17th Infantry,

Major C. A. R. Hutchinson, 41st Dogras, was Brigade Major throughout the year.

SECTION II.—MARINE.

THE PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

[*See* Administration Report of Commissioners for the Port of Chittagong for the year 1910-11; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.—Local Funds.]

Financial.

163. The normal income of the Ordinary Port Fund during the year 1910-11 amounted to Rs. 1,34,928, as compared with Rs. 1,31,071 of the previous year, an increase of Rs. 3,857 or 2·94 per cent. The abnormal receipts amounted to Rs. 2,76,944, representing the proceeds of the sale of 150 railway wagons, the steam launch *Surma* and two iron barges appertaining to the revetment work. The total income of the Ordinary Port Fund during the year thus amounted to Rs. 4,11,872.

Ordinary Expenditure.

164. The expenditure from the Ordinary Port Fund in 1910-11 (including the sum of Rs. 3,682 spent on capital account) amounted to Rs. 1,42,308, against Rs. 1,97,388 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 55,080.

The liabilities of the Port Trust on the 31st March 1911, exclusive of loans taken from Government for revetment work, amounted to Rs. 62,071-3-4. The closing balance of the Ordinary Port Fund was Rs. 1,37,681-6-2, the increase being due to the credit afforded to that fund for the sale proceeds of the plant mentioned in paragraph 163. The unpaid balance of loans taken from Government for the purchase of 150 wagons, amounting to Rs. 1,38,227-14-5 on the 1st April 1910, was liquidated in full during the year from the sale proceeds of the wagons. Proposals for improving the financial position of the

Port fund were considered by the Port Commissioners, *viz.*, by (a) enhancement of river dues from annas two to annas four a ton of cargo, and (b) imposition of light dues on vessels visiting this Port. These proposals have, for the present, been abandoned, any increase of Port charges being considered inadvisable in the present state of the trade of this Port.

Improvements to the Port (Revetment).

165. The Government grant for revetment work given during the year was 1,96,858. The amount borrowed by the Port Commissioners from Government to meet half the expenditure on the revetment work amounted to Rs. 1,00,000 at 4 per cent. per annum. Besides this, a sum of Rs. 50,000 was transferred from the "Dredger Account" to the credit of the "Revetment Account." The total receipts, including the opening balance, amounted to Rs. 4,02,353-13-1, against which the total expenditure was Rs. 3,35,917-2-5. The construction of a dam for closing the Gupta Char bye-channel, which was steadily deepening, causing a corresponding shoaling near the lower end of the main channel of the Karnafuli River, was started towards the close of 1909-10. The bed of the channel on both sides of the proposed dam was paved with stone. An iron trestle bridge was put across from one bank to the other to form a core for the dam and bag, earthwork was started early in December 1910. Shortly afterwards, however, some of the piles of the bridge gave way and a portion of the bridge collapsed owing to non-observance of the contract condition that the first layer of bags should be laid from barges and to the premature use of the bridge.

The damaged piles have been replaced and a stone bund up to four feet has been provided, but the completion of the dam has had to be suspended until the rainy season is over. The revetment of the right bank of the Karnafuli River was continued, the total completed length of revetted slope up to end of the year being 13,860 feet.

Dredging.

166. The unexpended balance at credit of the "Dredger Account" on the 1st April 1910 was Rs. 48,532-7-5. The total receipts during 1910-11, including Government grant of Rs. 92,000 towards the maintenance and working of the dredger, amounted to Rs. 92,392 from which a sum of Rs. 50,000 was transferred to the credit of the "Revetment Account," leaving the net receipts including the opening balance, amounting to Rs. 90,924-7-5, at credit of the "Dredger Account." The expenditure during 1910-11 was Rs. 64,457-2-11, so that the closing balance on the 31st March 1911 was Rs. 26,467-4-6. The principal liability against this balance was Rs. 10,195, representing the balance of estimated cost of repairs to the dredger.

The dredger was under repairs in the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, Kidderpore, throughout the year. The want of a second dredger is felt by the Port Commissioners to keep the navigable channel of the river open while the present dredger is laid up for repairs.

Shipping.

167. During the year under review 378 vessels entered the Port with a net aggregate tonnage of 355,293 against 384 vessels with a net aggregate tonnage of 373,770 for the previous year. Three hundred and eighty-one vessels with a net aggregate tonnage of 354,821 cleared from the Port during the year, against 370 vessels with a net aggregate tonnage of 373,642 for the previous year.

Trade.

168. The value of the imports and exports of the foreign and coasting trade during 1910-11 amounted to Rs. 660·51 lakhs of rupees against Rs. 648·97 lakhs of the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 11·54 lakhs or 1·77 per cent. of the aggregate value of the trade.

Jetties.

169. The construction of a fifth jetty is under the consideration of Government. The export of jute from Chittagong for the United Kingdom is expected to expand on the completion of the Bhairab-Tangi extension of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

Port Appliances.

170. The lighthouses were maintained in good order. The lights were exhibited throughout the year without interruption.

Pilotage Fund.

171. The receipts of the Chittagong Pilotage Fund (an Excluded Local Fund) during the year 1910-11 amounted to Rs. 33,313, against Rs. 33,122 for the previous year. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 38,204,

against Rs. 22,125 in the previous year. The closing balance on the 31st March 1911 was Rs. 8,731 against which the liabilities of the Fund amounted to Rs. 23,971, to clear which and to place the Fund on a sound financial basis a grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 30,000 will be given by Government during 1911-12.

The period of three years for which the pilotage rates were increased will expire on the 1st January 1912. An extension of the period of sanction will be considered by the Port Commissioners for recommendation to Government.

The health of the Port was good during the year.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION I.—Agriculture and Horticulture.

[*See* Report of the Agricultural Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year ending the 30th June 1911.]

Agricultural and Horticultural Stations.

172. At the Dacca farm the work of reclamation was pushed on and about 250 acres out of 350 are now under cultivation. The abandonment of the Rajshahi farm is under contemplation, as about a third of its area is being acquired by the railway authorities, and owing to difficulties in devising an effective scheme of drainage it is doubtful if the rest is worth retaining. The development of cattle-breeding operations at Upper Shillong has made it necessary o acquire a site at Sumer on the Gauhati road, where the cattle can be wintered. The Fruit Farm at Shillong has not proved a success, and its abandoment is under consideration. The Wahjain tropical plantation has been closed, as the soil proved unsuitable for tropical plants.

Agricultural Educatfon.

173. A scheme for the training of teachers to give nature-study lessons has been sanctioned and a curriculum framed, suitable readers being prescribed for use in schools. Five apprentices were trained in the Rajshahi Sericultural school and four qualified at Dacca for appointment as field demonstrators.

Experiment and Research.

174. The causes of the infertility of the highland soils of the old alluvium have been studied at Dacca and Jorhat. Analysis discloses an abnormal deficiency of lime. The soil is also acid and is therefore inimical to the development of the bacteria which convert organic compounds into plant food. Experiments are being made at Dacca to overcome the deficiency in lime, phosphoric acid compounds and nitrogen by the application of lime-bone, meal and green manure. The cost of applying bone-meal has been shown to be more than recovered in the increase in the value of the first crop. Experiments at Dacca have also demonstrated the excellent and lasting results to be obtained from the use of bone-meal as a manure for rice land.

Repeated experiments at Jorhat and Dacca have proved that striped Mauritius sugarcane is undoubtedly superior to the local varieties. Investigations in jute cultivation show that the fibre is affected by environment as well as by heredity. And also that in respect of colour the jute plant follows the Mendelian laws and that normally the plant is self-fertilised. Unfortunately jute of good quality fetches only 4 to 8 annas more per annum than inferior fibre, so that cultivators have not much encouragement to produce a superior article. Tobacco experiments have been carried out at the Burirhat farm in the Rangpur district with very successful results. Sumatra tobacco grown on 1·10 acres produced 1,404lbs. of superior leaf, which was sold for Rs. 1,558 while the cost of cultivation, exclusive of rent and the value of cowdung manure, which will be recouped by the sale of the lower class leaf, was only Rs. 246. Tobacco suitable for high-class cigarettes was sold at prices varying from Rs. 35 to Rs. 81 per maund, the cost of production being about Rs. 23. Rain and wind played havoc with the fruit at the Shillong Fruit Farm, but the experiments are being continued in sheltered sites.

Dhaincha has been proved to be a most effective green manure crop, and was grown with great success at Dacca.

Dissemination.

175. Important demonstrations of the value of bone-meal, applied to rice land were carried out in villages near the Dacca farm. Bone-meal, at the rate of three maunds per acre was applied to land bearing *aus* followed by winter rice. In ten cases out of twelve the increased profit on the *aus* crop alone was more than sufficient to cover the value of the bone meal.

Similar experiments have been carried out in the Khasi Hills and on the farm belonging to the Rangpur Association. Demonstrations in the cultivation of tobacco were made at Rangpur and, in the Khasi Hills, the advantages of spraying potatoes with Bordeaux mixture were inculcated in

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

three villages. A few raiyats have been persuaded to put down small areas of *jowar* as a fodder crop for the rainy season. Its value has been repeatedly proved. The introduction of fruit trees into the Lushai Hills has been actively encouraged by the Superintendent and considerable progress has been made. Demonstration orchards have been opened in the Naga Hills and at Manipur. A pleasing feature of the year's work has been the interest shown in fruit culture by various private gentlemen, who have done their best to popularise new varieties of fruit trees.

Aid to the Public.

176. The officers of the Department were able to visit almost every locality from which applications were received for assistance in combating outbreaks of insect pests. Their advice has resulted in material gain where the raiyats have not been too apathetic to follow it. A central seed depôt is maintained at Dacca for supplying good seed, manure and agricultural implements to officers, honorary correspondents of the Department and the general public. The articles issued included 250 maunds of paddy seeds, over two hundred maunds of potato seeds, eleven thousand sugarcane cuttings and 63 maunds of jute seeds.

Improvement of live-stock.

177. A breeding herd is maintained at Upper Shillong. During the year 7 bulls and 18 cows and heifers were sold. Since the close of the year under report a survey of the plough and milch cattle of the province has been undertaken by a special officer. No definite knowledge has hitherto been available as to the best variety of bull for mating with the local cows, and it is hoped that the enquiry will lead to definite conclusions on this important point.

The experiments carried out at the Upper Shillong Farm in crossing local ewes with Dumba rams proved a success, the butcher's meat from a cross-bred sheep being about fifty per cent. more than that from a Khasi sheep. The central poultry breeding station is at the Dacca Farm. The work is restricted to Langshans and Chittagong fowls. Arrangements are being made for distributing young stock and sittings of eggs to correspondents in the mofussil who are willing to take up breeding operations.

The import of Chittagong fowls into the Lushai Hills has been an unqualified success. During the year 5,000 eggs were sold at two annas each and 169 fowls for Rs. 286-7-6. It is estimated that there must be at least 10,000 imported birds in this district.

Sericulture.

178. The main end of the sericultural station at Mirganj is to supply the local silk-worm rearers with good seed. Sixty-seven per cent. of the cocoons produced were sold for seed and the price realized was Re. 1-1-4 per pound. The station has not yet succeeded in showing a profit on the working, but it is expected that with a larger outturn and a more experienced staff the ensuing year will show quite satisfactory results.

Exhibitions.

179. All the senior officers of the Department were allowed to visit the Allahabad Exhibition and eleven private gentlemen were induced to do so by the grant of a part of the expenses of their visit. The principal exhibits from this province comprised a large collection of fibres, specimens of the more important varieties of paddy and some samples of tobacco from the Burirhat Farm which attracted particular attention.

Agricultural exhibitions were held at Comilla and Malda. Demonstrations were given of the working of the turn-wrest and other new ploughs and the Planet junior hoe.

icultural Associations.

180. The Rangpur Farm, which had hitherto been managed by the Rangpur Association, has not proved a success and has now been taken over by Government. It is to be used as the base for the work of a district agricultural officer.

SECTION 2. — Co-operative Credit Societies.

[*See* Report on the working of the Co-operative Credit Societies in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1911 ; Statistics of British India, Part II.]

Number of Societies.

181. Urban societies have increased from 34 to 40 during the year. Their progress has been well maintained and in some cases startlingly rapid, as for instance in Comilla and Gopalganj, where the capital of the societies has

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increased from Rs. 7,302 to Rs. 42,748 and from Rs. 5,400 to Rs. 15,121, respectively. Rural societies have increased in number by 171. Six societies were closed and 177 new ones registered. The chief feature of the year has been the rapid spread of the movement in the Tippera and Pabna districts, in the Gaibandha subdivision of Rangpur and in the Raipura thana of the Dacca district.

Central banks.

182. Both the existing central banks are doing well and declared dividends of 15 and 12½ per cent. during the year.

Urban Societies.

183. The total capital of urban banks, inclusive of Reserve Funds, rose from Rs. 2,71,999 to Rs. 4,76,386. The confidence of the public in them is shown by the rapid increase in the amount of their deposits.

Recoveries of loans are made with great punctuality in most societies.

Two societies have small store branches attached to them which are of great service to members and there is one society whose sole object is the sale of stores.

Rural Societies.

184. Rural societies have increased in number from 330 to 501, in membership from 12,925 to 18,301 and in capital from Rs. 5,41,598 to Rs. 7,94,094. The year has been characterized by a large increase of societies of the *Haas* type in which the members provide capital by subscribing to shares of large amount in instalments spread over a period of years and also accept unlimited liability. These societies have so far worked well in Rangpur, Pabna and Tippera and the two societies first established are almost perfect models of what Co-operative Societies should be.

The Mymensingh societies are an interesting experiment as they are completely financed from outside. Their most marked feature lies in the fact that they show no tendency to expand, their cash being absorbed in paying off loans and in advances to existing members.

The older societies in the Mymensingh district are, on the whole, not flourishing. The latter ones have profited by the results of experience and men of large property and correspondingly heavy debts are now excluded.

The new group of societies known as Moslem banks in the Raipura thana of the Dacca district are doing well. They are not share capital banks but all the members have promised to make an annual deposit of five or ten rupees.

The banks of the Assam Valley have a larger membership and are spread over a larger area than those in Eastern Bengal. They are financed entirely by their own deposits and equivalent Government loans, but show little virility.

Co-operative Unions.

185. Experiments are being made in various directions with a view to discovering the best method of forming co-operative unions. At present these attempts are hindered by the fact that the law does not recognise such unions. This defect will shortly be removed. An interesting experiment was made at Madaripur where a local Inspector was appointed for all the banks of the Madaripur subdivision, to be paid for by contributions from the funds of all the societies and to work under the control of the Madaripur Urban Bank. Eight contiguous societies at Sadarpur in the Faridpur district have formed themselves into a union and have appointed a Supervisor, whose duty is to examine the accounts of each Society once a month, to report all irregularities and to advise the Union Committee generally.

Weavers' bank.

186. The Weavers' Bank at Bharenga made considerable progress and on a capital of Rs. 1,500 showed a turnover of about Rs. 5,600. During the year the Government Weaving Expert spent some time at Bharenga demonstrating better methods of work and introducing improvements in loans.

Profits.

187. The two Central Societies made a profit of nearly Rs. 4,500. All urban societies worked at a profit, except one; their aggregate profits amounting to Rs. 28,000.

Three urban banks paid 20 per cent. dividends, two 15 per cent. and three more 12½ per cent. Several banks are inclined to forget their co-operative spirit, which lays down that profit should accrue to the borrowers by reductions in the loan rate as well as to the shareholders by increase of dividend.

All rural societies, except one, worked at a profit. The total profit of rural societies amounted to Rs. 54,503, all of which was carried to the reserve funds.

SECTION 3.—Weather and Crops.

[*See* Report on Season and Crops of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 31st of March 1911; Agricultural Statistics of British India, Volume I, Appendix A; Area and yield of certain principal crops in India]

General character of the weather.

188. The spring rains were generally more copious than usual. Only on the shores of the Bay and in the Chittagong and Tippera Hills was there a slight defect. During the south-west monsoon copious rain fell in all parts of the province. In the western districts the rainfall between June and September averaged seventy per cent. above normal. Heavy rain again fell in October. The winter rains were in marked defect in the centre, west and south of the province. In total rainfall every district experienced a marked excess.

Area under cultivation.

189. The conditions of the year were favourable to the extension of cultivation. Much high land that lies waste in a dry year was brought under the plough. The supreme importance of the rice crop in the province is seen from the fact that in the year under report it occupied an area of over 27,000 square miles. The District Officers' final estimate of the area under jute was 22½ lakhs of acres, but the Director's estimate of 23½ lakhs was nearer the mark. About half a lakh of acres are set aside for growing crops on which to feed silkworms. The variations in the areas under other crops do not call for comment.

Outturn.

190. The average outturn of *bhadoi* rice is estimated at 80 per cent. of the normal and of winter and *boro* rice at 105 and 100 per cent., respectively. On this basis the outturn was approximately 72½ lakhs of tons, or 5 lakhs less than in the preceding year. The heavy rains damaged the gram, oilseeds and sugarcane crops, the outturn of which was less than in the previous year. The total outturn of jute was estimated to have been 98 per cent. of the normal.

Prices.

191. Owing to an increased demand and a diminished supply the price of jute was considerably higher than in the preceding year but as it has not hitherto proved possible to fix a standard quality for loose jute, no strict comparison of prices as between different marts or between the same mart for different years is possible. The highest price reported is Rs. 8-7-9 per maund.

The year opened with the price of rice at Rs. 3·32 per maund. The usual steady rise occurred up to the first part of August but then, instead of a steady decline, only a temporary fall occurred as, owing to the heavy floods, it was apprehended that supplies would be short, and at the beginning of November the price was again at its maximum. When it became known that the winter crop was a good one a decline set in, and the year closed with the price at Rs. 3·46, about 6 per cent. higher than in the preceding year.

SECTION 4.—Forests.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1910-11; Statistics of British India, Part IV (b)—Finance and Revenue.]

Alterations in area.

192. Nine thousand five hundred and twenty-eight acres were added to the Kakodanga Reserve and 1,441 excluded from the Kaziranga Reserve. The latter area was of no value to the game sanctury and was excluded to allow of land being available for temporary cultivation. The total area of unclassed State forests decreased by 336 square miles, 260 square miles being disforested in the Garo Hills alone.

Working plans.

193. A working plan for the South Kamrup forests, comprising an area of 162 square miles, was sanctioned during the year. Plans were also sanctioned for the Holongapar and Jokai Reserves. The prescription of the existing plans were carried out with few important exceptions. In Goalpara the work is considerably in arrears owing to the difficulties of procuring a sufficient supply of labour. Progress in the proper preparation of working plans is greatly hampered by the lack of proper maps. The party of the Survey of India expects to complete the survey of about 130 square miles of reserved forests in the Kamrup and Darrang districts during the field season of 1911-12.

Chap. IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Communications and Buildings.

194. Two miles of tramway were added to the line in the Goalpara division which is now sixteen miles long. The important work of road construction made very considerable progress during the year. In the Buxa Division 14 miles of cart road were opened. In this division there has been an annual expenditure of Rs. 6,400 for the last eight years during which period the gross revenue has risen from Rs. 63,255 to Rs. 3,47,984, a figure which bears striking testimony to the economic advantages of road building. In the Eastern Circles, 48 miles of cart roads and 54 miles of inspection paths were constructed. Of the latter 13 miles were in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a preliminary to a more thorough examination of the valuable reserves situated in that area.

Forest offences and protection.

195. The number of forest offences reported during the year was 1,138. In the Western Circle 13 and in the Eastern Circle 268 cases were taken into court, 239 ending in conviction.

Poaching by Nepali settlers was rife on the Bhutan border and in Darrang a tribe of Bhutias descends annually and commits various offences. As regards forest fires, the season was a favourable one. The percentage of forest burnt was only 1·2.

Sylviculture.

196. Operations carried out in the Jalpaiguri district have proved that under certain conditions the regeneration of *sal* forests is possible. The *sal* seedlings have been carefully tended in this division and grass lands are filling up with *sal*. A small nursery of seedlings of teak, *jarul* and mahogany was established at Sitapahar in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Rubber.

197. Unsuccessful attempts were made to dispose of the Charduar rubber plantations by sale. The area was not extended and little cultural work was carried on. Experiments were made at Charduar to form a large number of aerial roots from which, it is believed, it will be possible to obtain larger returns of rubber, the stem being left untouched.

Sale of forest produce.

198. The departmental sawing works in the Buxa and Goalpara divisions were on a much larger scale than in previous years. Over 92,000 sleepers were supplied to the Eastern Bengal State Railway, nearly 21,000 to the Assam-Bengal Railway, 9,700 to the Lower Ganges Bridge and 21,000 in other ways. In Lakhimpur 3,46,000 cubic feet of timber were used for the manufacture of of tea boxes. The local industry in tea boxes more than held its own against outside competition, but there is reason to fear that the supply of large *simul* in accessible localities is dwindling.

Finance. (a) Western Circle.

199. The gross revenue of the year under report was Rs. 12,33,831 as compared with Rs. 8,44,617 in the preceding year and an average of Rs. 7,55,136 for the previous five years. Revenue exceeded expenditure by Rs. 5,10,818 or 41 per cent. of the gross revenue as compared with 29 9 per cent. in the previous year and an average of 28·2 per cent. for the previous five years. The sale of sleepers, to which reference has already been made, is the chief reason for the sudden increase in revenue. All the divisions were worked at a profit, and of the total revenue of the circle 75 per cent. was obtained from reserved forests. In the Garo Hills, on the other hand, 91 per cent. of the revenue is derived from unclassed State forests and under the jhuming system of cultivation, and these cannot have any future.

(b) Eastern Circle.

200. The revenue for the year stood at Rs. 6,78,616, as compared with Rs. 6,60,536 in the previous year and an average of Rs. 5,97,847 for the preceding five years. The total expenditure, Rs. 3,61,869, though less than in 1909-10 was still considerably higher than the average expenditure of the last five years. The percentage of surplus, Rs. 3,16,747, to gross revenue was 47, the corresponding figures for the preceding year and the previous five years being 43 and 52.

The Chittagong and Lushai Hills divisions were the only ones which did not show a surplus. In the case of the former it was due to the transfer of the toll stations to the Hill Tracts and in the latter to the royalty on timber being credited to the divisions where it was collected.

SECTION 5.—Manufactures and Mines.

[*See* Report on Tea Culture in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910; Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910-11; Statistics of British India, Part I; Note on the Production of Tea in India]

Tea.

201. The total area of land under tea at the end of 1910 was 442,582 acres The number of permanent labourers employed on the gardens was 453,140. In addition to these 50,050 temporory labourers were employed, exclusive of settled and other villagers who live near gardens and work there occasionally. In the principal tea districts the total rainfall was in excess of the average and damaged the crops in the Lakhimpur district and on the low-lying land of the Surma Valley gardens. The Central Assam districts enjoyed a sufficient and well regulated rainfall.

The year's crop amounted to 223,836,198 pounds of manufactured tea. The heaviest yield per acre was obtained in Jalpaiguri, Lakhimpur, with the best tea soil in the province, being second. The published accounts of tea companies working in this province all agree in showing large profits on the working of the year 1910. Progress is being made in every direction except in regard to the supply of labour, and this has, at least, the effect of checking extensions and keeping prices up.

Minerals.

202. Eight prospecting licences were granted during the year, four for oil in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, two for oil in the Chittagong district, one for oil in Cachar and one for coal in the Garo Hills. Six coal mines in the Lakhimpur district produced 2,97,094 tons of coal during the year and a seventh in the Sibsagar district had an output of 142 tons. The royalty on coal amounted to Rs. 43,242.

The Digboi oil wells in Lakhimpur produced 33,20,680 gallons of mineral oil, the royalty on which amounted to Rs. 19,106. The output of limestone amounted to 1,23,110 tons, of which practically the whole amount was quarried in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

SECTION 6.—Factories.

[*See* Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1910; Statistics of British India, Part I.]

Number of Factories.

203. The number of factories at work on the last day of the year was 120 as compared with 132 at the close of the preceding year. In Assam four additional factories were brought under the operation of the Act while in Eastern Bengal there was a net decrease of 16 factories.

The factories were classified as follows:—

Printing Presses	2
Railway workshops	9
Steamer ,, ...	1
Workshop attached to the School of Engineering	1
Iron works	1
Jute presses	90
Cotton-ginning	1
Oil mill	1
Petroleum refinery	1
Saw mills	10
Tinning works	1
Tobacco factory...	1
Pottery	1

General Remarks.

204. The average daily number of operatives employed in these factories was 23,464, against 23,745 in the preceding year. The number of children employed was 518. The general health of the operatives was good, but the statistics of mortality are imperfect. The instructions of the Government of India regarding the employment of children appear to have been observed by factory owners and the children employed held certificates under the Act.

There were 36 accidents during the year. Of these two were fatal, 19 serious and 15 minor. Of the two fatal accidents one occurred at the Assam Bengal Railway workshop at Páhártali, where a man was killed by the fall of a crane and the other at the Saidpur Railway workshop, where a machine that was being traversed fell off its packing.

SECTION 7.—Maritime Trade.

[*See* Report on the Maritime Trade of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1910-11; Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of Eastern Bengal and Assam; Annual Statement of Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries; Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India; Review of Trade of India; Statistics of British India, Part II.]

205. The aggregate value of the trade of the province during the year under report was Rs. 6,60,51,096, an increase of Rs. 11,54,158 on the figures of the previous year. The foreign trade showed a rise of Rs. 13,94,096 or 2·83 per cent. while the coasting trade decreased by Rs. 2.39.948 or 1·53 per cent. The increase in the aggregate value of trade was due chiefly to the increased exportation of tea and hemp. These figures do not include the Calcutta sea-borne trade with Chittagong *viá* Barisal. This trade, which is increasing rapidly, was started five years ago by the River Steamship Company, and in 1909-10 amounted to Rs. 23,27,531 with an increase in 1910-11 to Rs. 41,42,605· The goods are brought to Barisal from Calcutta by river steamer *viá* the inland route and are transhipped at Barisal to sea-going vessels for Chittagong. There was a falling off in imports, due chiefly to smaller importations of railway materials, cotton piece-goods, salt, machinery and sugar. The aggregate value of exports increased by over Rs. 15,00,000, the expansion being chiefly due to increased exports of tea. It is noteworthy that the export of jute declined.

Foreign Trade.

206. There was a decrease of 10·90 per cent. in the quantity of raw jute exported, a decrease which is attributable to the decrease in the jute crop The increase of 2·60 per cent in the quantity of tea exported is a most hopeful eature of the working of the Port. 82·7 per cent of the total trade was with the United Kingdom, Germany being second with 8·9 per cent.

Coasting Trade.

207. The aggregate coasting trade of Chittagong decreased by 1·33 lakhs during the year under report. This was due to the smaller exportations of treasure to Burma. Exports to Bengal increased by 2·24 lakhs, due to the larger exports of jute carried by the steamers of Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., who lately started a steamship service between Calcutta and Chittagong.

SECTION 8.—Rail and River-borne Trade.

[*See* Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1910-1911.]

Registration.

208. For the purpose of recording the trade carried by rail and river the province is divided into eight blocks. A record of the trade of each block with other blocks and with other provinces is prepared in the Railway Audit Offices. A similar procedure is followed in the case of steamer-borne trade. All traffic by country-boat between this province and Calcutta is recorded by special agencies maintained by the Calcutta Port Commissioners. The establishment of boat traffic stations to register country-boat traffic has been postponed but experimental stations at Dhubri and Bhairab Bázár register the trade that enters and leaves the Assam or Surma Valleys by boat.

Total Rail and River-borne Trade.

209. The total trade with other provinces amounted to 6,65,04,618 maunds whose value was Rs. 5,030 lakhs. These statistics are not complete for the purposes of gauging the total extra-provincial trade unless the trade carried betweeen Chittagong and the rest of the province is included, for practically all such trade is *en route* to or from another province or foreign country. Taking this into account, the total extra-provincial trade amounts to 731 lakhs of maunds.

Nearly 62 per cent. of the total trade was with Calcutta but an enormous volume of trade between this province and Bengal escaped registration because there are no registering stations along the boundaries.

Imports.

210. Two hundred and sixty-four lakhs of maunds, totalling in value 1,932 lakhs of rupees, were imported into the province during the year 1910-1911. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 293 lakhs of maunds and 1,982 lakhs of rupees.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Cotton manufactures, accounting for 685 lakhs of rupees, are the most important of imports. In the case of piece goods, the import of Indian material increased by seven thousand maunds but foreign materials decreased by sixty-seven thousand maunds. There was a satisfactory increase from 17·1 lakhs to Rs. 24·3 lakhs in the value of machinery and mill work imported.

The continued increase in the imports of kerosine oil and wearing apparel are distinct signs of growing prosperity.

Exports.

211. By far the most valuable of exports is jute, the exports of which decreased from 299 to 275 lakhs of maunds. Owing to the rise in prices the value of jute exported increased by 13 per cent. Exports of tea increased from 18·8 to 22·0 lakhs of maunds by rail and river and from 6·4 to 6·7 lakhs of maunds by sea. The increase in value was 13 per cent. The exports of cotton rose in quantity but fell in value. an

SECTION 9.—Frontier Trade.

[*See* Report on the Trade between the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam and the adjoining Foreign Tribes and Countries for the year 1910-11.]

System of Registration.

212. The system of registration is admittedly most defective. The mauzadars and police officers, who are responsible for the figures, compile their returns by collecting monthly statements of trade transactions from the local *káyás*, who have dealings with the trans-frontier tribes. These *káyás* keep separate figures for their trans-frontier trade and the result is that the statistics are very unreliable. Imported articles can easily be picked out from the account books as these are usually not produced in the plains but it is impossible to separate the articles of export in the same way.

Trade.

213. The aggregate value of the trade during 1910-1911 was Rs. 5,38,620 as compared with Rs. 4,80,576 in the preceding year.

The Darranga fair to which the Bhutias used to come down in large numbers, appears to be losing its popularity. The depressed condition of the lac market is alleged to be one of the causes for its comparative failure.

Bhutan.

214. The value of the import trade from Bhutan during the last three years was Rs. 2,92,348 in 1908-1909, Rs. 1,86,835 in 1909-1910, and Rs. 1,78,862 in the year under report. This extraordinary decline is more apparent than real. Much of the trade has shifted to new routes on which there is no registration. The withdrawal of the orders of the Bhutan Government suspending the tapping of rubber trees led to a large increase in the amount of rubber brought down. The Jalpesh fair attracted a large number of Bhutias. Hitherto no arrangements have been made for registering the trade at this fair.

Akas and Dafias.

215. The returns of trade with these tribes are confined almost entirely to rubber. During the year a large quantity of manufactured silk was exported.

Abors, Mishmis., etc.

216. Forest produce is the only important article of trade with the Abor, Mishmi, Naga and Khamti tribes. The imports of rubber appear to be increasing under the stimulus of high prices. The improvement in the wax trade was also due to a rise in prices.

The total value of the trade with these tribes amounts to about Rs. 1,80,000.

SECTION 10.—Public Works.

[*See* Administration Report of the Public Works Department for 1910-1911.]

Revenue and Expenditure.

217. The total Public Works revenue amounted to Rs. 2,29,368 and the expenditure to Rs. 65,67,889. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were Rs. 2,11,913 and Rs. 66,33,258.

IMPERIAL WORKS.

Expenditure, Military.

218. The total expenditure (original works and repairs) was Rs. 2,97,524.

219. Quarters were constructed for the Sergeant-Major at Dibrugarh and for the Sergeant-Instructor at Dacca. The new Armoury for the Assam-Bengal Railway Volunteers was in progress.

Civil.

220. The construction of the Salt Golahs at Chittagong was put in hand.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

Expenditure. 221. The total expenditure on Civil (original) works was Rs. 26,42,075.

Residences. 222. Rupees 1,67,376 were expended on the new Government House at Dacca. A bungalow was purchased at Shillong as a residence for the Conservator of Forests, Eastern Circle. Materials were collected for the European and Eurasian clerks' quarters at Dacca.

Administration. 223. The Secretariat building at Dacca was completed at a total cost of Rs. 12,96,035. The Press building was practically completed and occupied at the end of the year.

Education. 224. Hostels for Hindus and Muhammadans were constructed in connection with the Training College at Dacca. A training school was constructed at Jorhat and an additional Hindu hostel and dining school erected at the Cotton College, Gauhati.

Jails. 225. Improvements were carried out in the jails at Tangail, Faridpur and Barisal. The principal works in progress were the reconstruction of the Noakhali jail, the construction of a European ward in the Sylhet jail and improvements in the water-supply of the Gauhati jail.

Police. 226. The police lines at Borbheta (Jorhat) were completed at a total cost of Rs. 1,08,812. Land with buildings for a central Police Training School was acquired at Sarda in the district of Rajshahi at a cost of Rs. 72,486. A number of small investigation centres or additions to existing thanas were also taken up or completed.

Excise. 227. The various schemes in connection with the development of the central distillery at Jorhat were practically completed.

Registration. 228. Four new sub-registry offices were completed.

Archæology. 229. Special repairs to the buildings at Gaur and Pandua were put in hand.

Communications. 230. The expenditure on (original works) communications amounted to Rs. 3,49,424. The principal works, completed or in progress, during the year under report were the improvement of the Assam Trunk Road; the extension of the North Trunk Road; improvements to the Dimapur-Manipur cart-road at an expenditure of nearly two lakhs; the survey of eight feeder roads for the Eastern Bengal State Railway which will be constructed by local bodies; the construction of diversions on the Cachar road and the completion of the Aijal-Sairang cart-road.

Dak and Inspection Bungalows. 231. The inspection bungalows at Dum Duma, Talap and Paglarhat, and the dâk bungalow at Habiganj were completed.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements. 232. Rupees 32,000 were expended on clearing and laying out the grounds of the new Civil Station at Dacca, Rs. 38,000 on new roads, Rs. 57,000 on drainage, and Rs. 85,000 on laying out the Amlapara. Rupees 16,000 were expended on pumping plant for the two tube wells at Chittagong. The entire working of the Gauhati water works were transferred to the Public Works Department, which effected improvements resulting in an increased revenue of about Rs. 1,400 per annum.

Rivers. 233. The experiment of bandalling the river Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh by the Steamer Companies, to whom a subsidy of Rs. 3,000 was paid, was a failure. Snags were removed from the Desang and its tributaries and the mouth of the river was improved by bandalling. Rupees 19,533 was paid to Messrs. Kilburn & Co. for the charter of dredgers used on the Dhulleswari and Buriganga rivers. The work resulted in the rivers being kept open for the daily steamer service to Dacca.

Railways. 234. During the year 19·05 miles of the Akhaura-Ashuganj Branch of the Assam-Bengal Railway and 8·52 miles of the Talap-Saikhoaghat Railway were opened to traffic, bringing the total of open line in the province up to 1,952·97 miles.

Jorhat State Railway. 235. The gross earning for the year 1910 amounted to Rs. 95,976 and the working expenses to Rs. 88,447. A separate medical institution for the railway was opened during the year.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

236. The gross earning for the year 1910 amounted to Rs. 11,20,604 and the working expenses to Rs. 6,74,187.

Dibru-Sadiya Railway, Dwara-Therria Railway.

237. The Company formed for the construction of this line having gone into liquidation, the rights and properties invested in it were transferred to Messrs. H. V. Low & Co., who paid all outstanding Government dues.

Assam-Bengal Railway.

238. Jetty No. 4 was completed during the year. Work was commenced during the year on a line from Kulaura to the Kusiara River, a distance of 15·07 miles in length and from Bhairab Bazar, opposite Ashuganj, to Tangi, a station on the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway, a distance of 39·46 miles.

Eastern Bengal State Railway.

239. During the year preliminary work on the Sara Bridge was to a large extent completed. Sanction was accorded to the construction of the Singhani-Fulchari Railway.

Light Railway Surveys.

240. Survey operations on the Juri-Hatikhira project were completed during the year. Surveys for lines from Bhairab Bazar to Netrakona, from Madna *vid* Habiganj to Shaistaganj, and from Sialtek to Lala Bazar were in progress during the year.

ESTABLISHMENT.

Cost.

241. The total charges of Public Works Establishment amounted to Rs. 10,57,748, which is 25·47 per cent. of the outlay on works carried out by the Department.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

(A)—GROSS REVENUE.

242. The receipts and charges of the province during the financial year 1910-1911 are shown in the table below :—

Receipts.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
A.—Principal Heads of Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	2,90,718	1,99,28,200	2,02,18,918
II.—Opium	6,29,268	...	6,29,268
III.—Salt	12,87,081	...	12,87,081
IV.—Stamps	53,36,660	53,36,659	10,6,73,319
V.—Excise	39,35,665	39,35,665	78,71,330
VI —Provincial Rates	— ...	17,28,440	17,28,440
VII.—Customs	1,28,497	...	1,28,497
VIII.—Assessed taxes	6,37,698	6,22,393	12,60,091
IX.—Forest*	9,45,318	9,45,317	18,90,635
X.—Registration	...	9,67,385	9,67,385
XI.—Tributes	50,100	...	50,100
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue ...	1,32,41,005	3,34,64,059	4,67,05,064
B.—Interest—			
XII.—Interest	235	1,72,760	1,72,995
D.—Receipts by Civil Departments—			
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	...	4,43,257	4,43,257
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails	...	2,77,259	2,77,259
XVII.—Police	...	1,89,807	1,89,807
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	...	8,057	8,057
XIX.—Education	...	3,22,331	3,22,331
XX.—Medical	...	46,230	46,230
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	...	41,784	41,784
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments ...	...	13,28,725	13,28,725
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts—			
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ...	67,486	10,160	77,646
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	2,869	17,941	20,810
XXV.—Miscellaneous	11,389	3,02,650	3,14,039
Total E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts ...	81,744	3,30,751	4,12,495

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
H.—Railways—			
XXVI.—State Railways—(Gross Receipts) ...	...	95,331	95,331
Deduct—Working expenses	...	80,826	80,826
Net Railway Receipts	...	14,505	14,505
J.—Irrigation—			
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation ...	...	74	74
K.—Other Public Works—			
XXXI.—Civil Works	3,428	3,47,302	3,50,730
Grand Total ...	1,33,26,412	3,56,58,176	4,89,84,588

Expenditure.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
A.—Direct Demands on the Revenue—				
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	67,129	74,198	1,41,327	
2.—Assignments and Compensations ...	61,141	30,324	91,465	
3.—Land Revenue	16,82,944	29,10,567	45,93,511	
5.—Salt	74,237	...	74,237	
6.—Stamps	2,02,576	2,02,577	4,05,153	
7.—Excise	1,55,416	1,55,417	3,10,833	
8.—Provincial Rates	...	27,143	27,143	
9.—Customs	55,457	...	55,457	
10.—Assessed Taxes	20,200	20,199	40,399	
11.—Forest	5,43,669	5,43,670	10,87,339	
12.—Registration	...	6,29,995	6,29,995	
Total A—Direct Demands on the Revenue.	28,62,769	45,94,090	74,56,859	
B.—Interest—				
12.—Interest on ordinary debt	...	1,29,317	1,29,317	
13.— „ on other obligations ...	26,862(a)	...	26,862	(a) Includes Rs. 684 on account of Railway Provident Fund.
Total B—Interest ...	26,862	1,29,317	1,56,179	
Carried over ...	28,89,631	47,23,407	7,13,038	

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Brought forward	28,89,631	47,23,407	76,13,038	
D.—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—				
18.—General Administration	2,58,066	12,73,699	15,31,765	
19A— Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	...	47,37,231	47,37,231	
19B— Ditto Jails	...	9,73,988	9,73,988	
20.—Police	...	53,00,014	53,00,014	
21.—Ports and Pilotage	...	91,447	91,447	
22.—Education	...	26,10,708	26,10,708	
23.—Ecclesiastical	40,105	...	40,105	
24.—Medical	...	10,67,623	10,67,623	
25.—Political	...	1,22,731	1,22,731	
26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	53,267	4,51,867	5,05,134	
Total D—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department.	3,51,438	1,66,29,308	1,69,80,746	
E.—Miscellaneous—				
27.—Territorial and Political Pensions ...	9,014	...	9,014	
28.—Civil Furlough	...	...	...	
29.—Superannuation allowance and Pension ...	...	8,00,212	8,00,212	
30.—Stationery and Printing	...	7,78,524	7,78,524	
32.—Miscellaneous	30,204	6,25,371	6,55,575	
Total E—Miscellaneous	39,218	22,04,107	22,43,325	
F.—Famine Relief and Insurance—				
33.—Famine Relief	...	252	252	
35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works.	3,196	...	3,196	
Total F—Famine Relief Insurance ...	3,196	252	3,448	
H.—Railway Revenue Accounts—				
40—Subsidized Companies	...	5,553	5,553	
41.—Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure ...	...	6,483	6,483	
Total H—Railway Revenue Accounts ...	...	12,036	12,036	
J.—Irrigation—				
43.—Minor Works and Navigation ...	...	1,07,133	1,07,133	
K.—Other Public Works—				
44.—Construction of Railways	...	11,928	11,928	
45.—Civil Works	2,57,344	64,30,307	66,87,651	
Total K—Other Public Works ...	2,57,344	64,42,235	66,99,579	
Grand Total ...	35,40,827	1,18,478	3,36,59,305	

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure.

—	1909-10.			1910-11.			1910-11 compared with 1909-10.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net Receipts + or Net Expenditure —.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net Receipts + or Net Expenditure —.	Increase of Revenue.	Decrease of Revenue.	Increase of Expenditure.	Decrease of Expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I (*a*).—Principal Heads of Revenue.	4,52,44,534	71,43,323	+3,81,01,211	4,67,05,064	74,56,859	+3,92,48,205	14,60,530	...	3,13,536	
II.—Departmental Heads :—										
(*b*) Interest ...	1,51,135	1,41,841	+9,294	1,72,995	1,56,179	+16,816	21,860	...	14,338	
(*c*) Civil Department.	12,55,591	1,60,12,132	—1,47,56,541	13,28,725	1,69,80,746	—1,56,52,021	73,134	...	9,68,614	
(*d*) Miscellaneous...	3,66,328	22,15,919	—18,49,591	4,12,495	22,43,325	—18,30,830	46,167	...	27,406	
(*e*) Famine Relief and Insurance.	...	28,686	—28,686	...	3,448	—3,448	...	...	...	25,238
(*f*) Railway Revenue Accounts.	—289	20,945	—21,234	14,505	12,036	+2,469	14,794	...	...	8,909
(*i* and *j*) Irrigation	14	1,17,152	—1,17,138	74	1,07,133	—1,07,059	60	...	...	10,019
(*k*) Other Public Works.	3,28,079	66,84,088	—63,56,009	3,50,730	66,99,579	—63,48,849	22,651	...	15,401	
(*l*) Military Services	9,559	74,589	—65,030	...	...	...	...	9,559	...	74,589
Total Departmental Heads.	21,10,417	2,52,95,352	—2,31,84,935	22,79,524	2,62,02,446	—2,39,22,922	1,78,666	9,559	10,25,849	1,18,755
Grand Total ...	4,73,54,951	3,24,38,675	+1,49,16,276	4,89,84,588	3,36,59,305	+1,53,25,283	16,39,196	9,559	1,39,385	1,18,755

243. The expenditure of the year compares as follows with that of 1909-10 and with the Budget for 1910-11 :— **Land Revenue.**

—	Compared with Actuals for 1909-1910.		Compared with Budget for 1910-11.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Charges of District Administration	53,000	...	...	34,000
(2) Management of Government Estates	...	47,000	...	16,000
(3) Commission on Collections	11,000	...	16,000	...
(4) Charges on account of Fishery Collections ...	8,000	...	1,000	...
(5) Survey and Settlement	83,000	...	...	1,38,000
(6) Land Records	...	5,000	...	20,000
(7) Allowance to District and Village Officers ...	...	...	...	2,000

The variations under charges of District Administration were caused principally by expenditure on salaries and establishment which, though higher than in the previous year, was less than that estimated in the Budget. Outlay on improvement under management of Government Estates decreased

considerably and the net result under Board and Public Works Cess on Government Estates (the recoveries of which are adjusted by reduction of expenditure) showed a minus figure of Rs. 11,000 against a plus figure of Rs. 12,000 in the previous year, and nil in the Budget. Under Land Records the provision made for the maintenance of records and writing the new combined Register was not utilized.

General Administration.

244. The details by minor heads of the actuals and estimates under this head are shown below in round figures :—

Minor heads.	Actuals, 1909-10.	Budget, 1910-11.	Actuals, 1910-11.	Comparison which Actuals of 1909-10.	Comparison with Budget of 1910-11.
1	2	3	4	5	7
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Salary of Lieutenant-Governor	96,000	96,000	96,000	...	...
Staff and Household of Lieutenant-Governor ...	45,000	64,000	46,000	+1,000	−18,000
Expenditure from Contract Allowance ...	22,000	25,000	22,000	...	−3,000
Tour expenses	15,000	11,000	12,000	−3,000	+1,000
Legislative Council	7,000	17,000	11,000	+4,000	−5,000
Civil Secretariat	4,03,000	4,49,000	4,40,000	+37,000	−9,000
Board of Revenue	2,28,000	2,26,000	2,20,000	−8,000	−6,000
Commissioners	3,48,000	3,45,000	3,54,000	+6,000	+9,000
Civil office of Account and Audit (Imperial) ...	2,53,000	2,54,000	2,58,000	+5,000	4,000
Ditto ditto (Provincial) ...	40,000	50,000	45,000	+5,000	−5,000
Inspector-General of Registration	29,000	29,000	28,000	−1,000	−1,000
Total	14,86,000	15,66,000	15,32,000	+46,000	−34,000

The saving under "Staff and Household of the Lieutenant-Governor" was mainly due to the non-utilization of the provision for Motor Car charges. The provision for Tour charges was inadequate and that for the Legislative Council was not utilized in full. The saving under "Civil Secretariat" was composed of several small items under various detailed heads. Savings occurred under Members' salaries and contingencies under Board of Revenue. The excess under "Commissioners" occurred chiefly under Salaries and Establishment due to leave allowances for which no provision was made in the Budget. The pay of a probationer, for whom no provision was made in the Budget, mainly accounts for the excess under "Civil office of Account and Audit (Imperial)." Under "Provincial" the saving was due to the appointments in connection with the inspection of Police offices having been sanctioned late in the year.

(B) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

SECTION I.—Land Revenue.

Land Revenue.

245. The ordinary land revenue demand for the year amounted to Rs. 2,04,57,236, out of which Rs. 1,96,20,713 were collected and Rs. 82,551 remitted on account of dilluvion or local calamities. Over twenty-four thousand rupees were written off in Chittagong and Pabna alone as nominal or fictitious demand. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of Rs. 2,40,004 in the demand of Rs. 2,09,575 in the collections and of Rs. 29,743 in the remissions. The collections under Miscellaneous Land Revenue amounted to Rs. 7,18,406 against Rs. 8,34,589, while remissions increased from Rs. 6,003 to Rs. 16,783.

SECTION 2.—Sources of Revenue other than Land Revenue.

Opium.

246. The customs receipts of Chittagong again declined from Rs. 9,47,227 to Rs. 8,99,715. The decrease was due to the smaller clearances of salt.

Salt.

247. The receipts from license fees were Rs. 7,68,150 and those from duty Rs. 22,31,819, as compared with Rs. 6,62,065 and Rs. 21,81,541, respectively, in 1909-1910.

248. Imports excluding those of duty-paid salt imported by rail amounted to 1,276,569 maunds, or 498,823 maunds less than in the previous year. Clearances amounted to 1,679,454 maunds, as compared with 1,742,236 maund in the preceding year. The decrease is attributed partly to the difficulty in obtaining steamers to bring salt to Chittagong, and partly to the temporary suspension of golas that occurred. The increase in importations from the the United Kingdom (101·38 per cent.) and from Germany (32·48 per cent.). due to the Clan Line steamers again taking up the carrying of salt to Chittagong was more than counterbalanced by the decrease in the importations from Port said (100 per cent.) from Aden (63·5 per cent) and Spain (54·9 per cent.) due to high freights and to the difficulties experienced in chartering vessels.

The sale figures indicate that the boycott movement is disappearing and that English salt is regaining its old place in the market.

The average price of salt rose from Rs. 2-0-8 to Rs. 2-0-11. The financial results of the working of the Salt Department continue to deteriorate. Receipts have decreased by Rs. 71,165 as compared with 1909-1910, while expenditure has remained practically stationary. The decrease in receipts is due to the growing tendency to import duty-paid salt from Calcutta in increasing quantities.

This diversion of trade is the most fact disclosed by the report on the working of the Salt Department.

Excise.

249. The total revenue demand for the year amounted to Rs. 78,35,223 as compared with Rs. 62,90,738 in the previous year. License fees and duty yielded increases of Rs. 3,32,363 and Rs. 1,91,096, respectively. The settlements for the year were very favourable, keen competition resulting in an abnormal increase in the demand under license fees, while the larger consumption of country spirit and ganja and the enhancement of the duty on opium account for the increase in the duty-paid. There has been a further increase of two and three quarter lakhs in the license fees for the current year.

As in the previous year, three systems were in force for the manufacture of country liquor, *viz.*, the Sadr distillery system, the Contract System and Outstill System.

In the Dacca Division, where the Sadr distillery system was in force there was a very considerable rise in the consumption of country-liquor, due partially to the cutting of prices by rival *Abkars* but mainly to the abolition of the right to sell rum in the country liquor shops. The contract supply system was in force in the same area as last year. It is reported that the adoption of the system has done much to check drunkenness, at the same time one of its commonest results is to stimulate the consumption of pachwai and the illicit distillation of spirits therefrom.

The consumption of ganja declined in the Surma Valley Division, but increased in each of the others. The low retail price and the prosperity of the people are adduced as the reasons for the increase. There is little reason to doubt that the high price of opium has also stimulated the consumption of ganja.

The smuggling of opium through this province into Burma continued to tax the energies of the Excise staff in Chittagong and the neighbouring districts. Altogether forty-one cases were detected. It is reported that the smugglers, both of Arakan and Chittagong, are becoming more truculent and determined in their methods.

Stamps.

250. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court-Fees Acts amounted to Rs. 1,06,73,528, as compared with Rs. 1,01,63,928 in the year 1909-10.

Charges rose from Rs. 2,59,235 to Rs. 2,65,953. The increase in the sale of court-fee stamps has been progressive and steady and is shared by all districts except Bakarganj. In that district previous figures had been unusually high owing to the institution of a large number of cases in connection with the final stages of the settlement operations. The increase in the Dacca Division generally is attributed to the settlement operations in progress in Mymensingh and Faridpur, and to the ce s re-valuation proceedings which are in hand in Mymensingh. Elsewhere the increase in receipts are attributed to growing liligation.

Income-tax.

251. The total income of receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 12,43,540, an increase of Rs. 34,453 or 2·9 per cent. on the receipts for 1909-10. This increase is shared by all the divisions except Dacca. In the Chittagong and Surma Valley Divisions the increase is reported to be due partly to careful revision and partly to the discovery of new assessees. In the Rajshahi Division it is due to the expansion of trade. The falling-off in the Dacca Division is explained as due to the bad market in jute during the last two years. The number of persons finally assessed and the final demand (salaries of Government servants and interest on Government securities being excluded) was 18,765 and Rs. 10,40,464. respectively.

(C) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

SECTION 3.—Provincial Finance.

Receipts and expenditure.

252. The receipts and expenditure are compared below with those of the previous year :—

Year.	Opening Balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing Balance.
1	2	3	4	5
Rs 29 9-1910	Rs. 12,00,730	Rs. 2,97,56,821	Rs. 2,92,07,551	Rs.. 17,50,000
1910-1911	17,50,000	3,56,58,176	3,01,18,478	72,89,698

The Provincial Service Accounts for the year under review opened with a balance of Rs. 17,50,000 and closed with a balance of Rs. 72,89,698, showing an apparent surplus of Rs. 55,39,698. The opening balance included a contribution of Rs. 5,50,000 made from Imperial to Provincial Revenues to enable the Provincial Government to discharge its obligations to the Port Commissioners of Chittagong for the improvement of the Port. Out of this sum Rs. 2,89,000 only was included on the expenditure side of the Budget and paid during the year. The receipts included a total net contribution of Rs. 98,35,965 from Imperial to Provincial Revenues as against Rs. 50,85,000 estimated in the Budget.

The high closing balance was therefore mainly attributable to the additional grants received from the Government of India. These special assignments were :—

Rs. 20,17,000 for Educational and Sanitary reforms.
Rs. 10,28,000 on account of the cost of the reorganization of the River Police.
Rs. 15,22,000 on account of the cost of the reorganization of the Subordinate Police.
Rs. 1 82,000 to meet the cost of the part of the Secretariat Buildings at Dacca occupied by the Accounts Office.
Rs. 37,000 for the revision of the pay of Ministerial Establishment.
Rs. 4,000 for Archæological Expenditure.

Compared with the actuals of 1909-1910, the receipts, excluding the assignments from Imperial revenues were better by Rs. 10,14,825, whilee xpenditure increased by Rs. 9,10,927. Receipts improved under most heads but the principal increases occurred under Stamps (Rs. 2,55,000), Excise (Rs. 2,82,000) and Forest (Rs. 1,78,000). The improvement under Stamps occurred in the sale of court-fee stamps and may be attributed to the greater prosperity of the people, to which was also due the increase under excise. The large demand for timber for sleepers by the Eastern Bengal State Railway accounted for the higher receipts under Forest.

The principal factors in the increase of expenditure were Courts of Law (Rs. 2,68,000), Police (Rs. 2,18,000) and Education (Rs. 2,72,000). The expenditure on political trials and the reorganization of the Military Police helped to swell the charges under the heads Courts of Law and Police.

SECTION 4.—Local Funds.

253. The following statement shows the receipts and charges during the year of those Local Funds of which an account is submitted to Government:—

Names of Funds.	Opening balance on the 1st April 1910.	Receipt during the year 1910-1911.	Total.	Expenditure during the year 1910-1911.	Closing balance on 31st March 1911.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	11,46,370	32,76,630	44,23,000	34,15,889	10,07,111
Local Funds...	4,30,641	15,59,297	19,89,938	15,35,908	4,54,030
Municipalities	2,03,784	12,29,664	14,33,448	11,20,197	3,13,251
Cantonments	1,253	14,931	16,184	13,577	2,607
District Chaukidari Reward Fund ...	74,468	44,930	1,19,398	24,386	95,012
Port Trust Deposits	15,359	4,53,768	4,69,127	3,30,565	1,38,562
Hospital Port Dues Fund ...	796	4,564	5,360	4,679	681
Assam Williamson Education Fund	10,527	3,929	14,456	2,261	12,195
Medical and Charitable Funds ...	10,063	22,569	32,632	20,152	12,480
Town and Bazar Fund	23,337	50,122	73,459	38,776	34,683
Total ...	19,16,598	66,60,404	85,77,002	65,06,390	20,70,612

SECTION 5.—Road and Public Works Cesses.

[*See* Report on the Provincial Rates Operations for the revenue year 1910-1911.]

254. In Eastern Bengal the road and public works cesses were levied as in previous years at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee of the annual value of all lands in all districts of Eastern Bengal, except the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Cess Act is not in force. In Assam the assessment of local rates was made, in the case of temporarily-settled estates on the annual land revenue assessment, and in the case of permanently-settled estates on their area or on the actual profits derived from them. Road and Public Works Cesses.

In Eastern Bengal the current demand fell from Rs. 34,07,838 to Rs. 33,71,663. The decrease is due to the effect of the Board's order, mentioned in last year's report, by which the cess demand of the Government estates from the 1st July 1909 to the 31st March 1911 was included in the demand of the previous revenue year. The total current demand of local rates in Assam, Rs. 7,68,420, increased by Rs. 11,721 over the demand of the previous year.

The percentage of total collections to current demand showed some improvement in Eastern Bengal where it stood at 98·99, as compared with 96·02 in the previous year, but was considerably worse in Assam, where it fell from 10 92 to 99·26.

In Eastern Bengal Rs. 5,47,209 or more than 14 per cent. of the total demand remained outstanding at the close of the year, against 12·9 per cent. in the preceding year. The corresponding figures for Assam were Rs. 87,778 and 10·3 per cent. Rs. 80,444 remained unrealised in Sylhet alone.

The number of certificates filed rose both in Eastern Bengal and Assam. In Sylhet the number of cases filed rose from 281 to 415. This is reported to have been due to the unfavourable conditions of the preceding seasons.

During the year under report, valuation and re-valuation operations were in progress in nine of the Eastern Bengal districts and in Cachar and Sylhet.

The general re-valuation of the district of Chittagong, which began in 1907, was completed during the year.

SECTION. 6.—Education Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 7.—Municipal Revenue.

255. The subject of Municipal income is discussed in Chapter III.

CHAPT VI.RE—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION 1.—Vital Statistics.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

Births and deaths.

256. The population of the province according to the provisional census of 1911 is 34,554,930. The provincial birth-rate (37·96) is considerably lower than that of last year (46·46) and than the average of the previous five years (39·07) while the death-rate (33·71) still remains above the average (32·13).

The death-rate of the province is higher than that of any other province except the Central and United Provinces but it is to be noted that a high death-rate in those provinces is accompanied by a high birth-rate, whereas in the case of Eastern Bengal and Assam the birth-rate is below the average for all British India.

Mortality from the chief diseases.

257. The birth-rate in towns is 22·77 which is an increase of 1·28 over the rate for the previous five years.

The mortality from the chief diseases during 1910 is compared with that of the previous decade in the statement below:—

Disease.	Ratio from 1908-09.			1910.		
	Urban.	Rural.	Combined.	Urban.	Rural.	Combined.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cholera	2·89	2·58	2·59	2·94	3·97	3·95
Small-pox	·29	·31	·31	·51	·35	·35
Plague (*a*)	·004	·0003	·0004	·001	·001	·001
Fevers	13·73	23·16	22·96	11·92	23·5	23·31
Dysentery and diarrhœa ...	1·85	·71	·74	1·75	·83	·85
Respiratory diseases (*b*) ...	·17	·08	·08	·37	·15	·15
Injuries	·33	·36	·36	·36	·40	·40
All other causes	5·64	4·77	4·78	5·34	4·65	4·66
Total ...	24·93	31·98	31·83	23·23	33·93	33·71

(*a*) Nine years' average. | (*b*) Eight years' average.

Cholera was responsible for 72·64 per cent. of the increase, which is mainly due to an epidemic in Sylhet where 20,000 deaths occurred.

The death-rate from fevers is highest in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Pabna, all of which are in the Rajshahi division.

The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, who made an enquiry into the history of malarial fever in the Rajshahi division, came to the conclusion that the aggregation of coolie labour has been responsible for the chief epidemics that have occurred.

The statistics of mortality from fevers are doubtless inaccurate owing to the tendency to enter all deaths from unknown causes under this head. The services of Dr. Bentley have been engaged as a special Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, and part of his work will be to examine the statistics of selected areas with a view to determining a correction factor by which the deaths from malaria can be separated from those representing the other causes of mortality which are classified under the general term "fevers."

Registration.

258. Great difficulty has been experienced in arranging for the proper supervision and inspection of the registering offices and an improvement in this respect must mean a general rise in the ratios of vital statistics. Increased attention has been paid to the inspection of vital statistics by the vaccination staff during the year. The increase in the population of the plains districts according to the recent census is 3,376,669 and according to registration

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figures 2,270,288. The difference represents about 3·3 per cent. and when the increase due to the difference between immigration and emigration is taken into account, it appears that the defect in registration is not after all very serious.

Registration in hill districts.

259. The registration of vital occurrences in hill districts is carried on, on a modified system. The following table shows the record of the year:—

District.	Birth ratios.		Death ratios.	
	Average 1908-09.	1910.	Average 1908-09.	1910.
1	2	3	4	5
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	32·13	30·13	31·37	27·06
Shillong	30·05	32·56	18·72	21·46
Naga Hills	21·98	24·24	25·21	17·13
Lushai "	40·91	46·67	40·76	34·52
Garo "	30·98	35·07	30·31	33·85

SECTION 2.—Immigration and Labour Inspection.

[*See* Resolution on Immigrant Labour in the Assam districts of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910-11.]

General.

260. The labour force dealt with in this report is that imported for employment on tea gardens, in the oil refinery at Digboi, in coal mines and in certain saw mills. The labour employed on railways is excluded and no account is taken of those labourers who are temporarily employed during the cold weather and return to their homes in April or May.

Shortly before the close of the year the Government of India suggested to the Local Government and the Indian Tea Association that the labour district provisions of Act VI of 1901 should be withdrawn from the Brahmaputra Valley. An expression of opinion was also invited on the question whether the system of recruitment by contractors might then be abolished, and it was pointed out that, with the abolition of the contractor, most of the safeguards against fraudulent recruitment might be relaxed. Speaking generally, the withdrawal of the labour districts provisions of Act VI has been accepted as inevitable, and Government is considering the possibility of introducing some measure which shall afford some protection against the enticement of imported labour.

Progress in the gradual substitution of free for indentured labour was very marked, and in one district at least Managers strove to render employment attractive by leasing large areas of land for cultivation. The appointment of a Political Agent at Hill Tippera has resulted in a considerable improvement of the situation on the Hill Tippera border where the absconding of coolies into the State had led to friction between Managers and the Hill Tippera authorities.

Strength and distribution of the labour force.

261. At the close of the year the total strength of the labour force was 763,239. The number of Act coolies fell from 26,778 to 20,868. The number of immigrant coolies was 43,657, as compared with 39,332 in the previous year.

Health.

262. The health of the coolie immigrants in 1909-10 was satisfactory, but there was a further improvement in the year under report, the number of deaths falling from 45 to 23. Ninety-nine complaints of fraudulent or irregular recruitment were made, of which 42 were found to be true.

Act XIII of 895.

263. This Act continued to be largely used and is reported to have worked well. It is popular with the coolies, as it entails the giving of an advance which is usually written off as a bonus.

Miscellaneous.

264. Only five complaints of ill-treatment were made by coolies against their employers during the year, in two of which the complaints were found to be true. Two hundred and sixty-four applications for discharge were successful. Managers filed 902 complaints under Act XIII of which 402 were decided in their favour. Thirteen cases of riot or unlawful assembly and seven cases of assault were instituted by Managers. The number of desertions of Act VI coolies reported was 2,137. At the close of the year 1,73,683 acres of Government land were settled with time-expired coolies. In addition to this, ex-coolies also held large tracts as sub-tenants.

Good relations between employers and employed were distinctly the rule and there was no indication of any general ill-feeling or distrust.

SECTION 3.—Charitable Dispensaries.

[*See* the Triennial Report on the Working of the Dispensaries in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the years 1908, 1909 and 1910; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

Dispensaries.

265. Five hundred and thirty-four dispensaries were working at the close of the year under report. Of these 281 are supported from funds derived from local bodies and 119 from funds provided by private persons.

In EasternBengal there is one dispensary per 100,000 of population or per 150 square miles of country, while in Assam there is one dispensary per 50,000 of population and 330 square miles of country.

The number of persons treated rose from 3,466,068 in 1909 to 3,548,961 in 1910.

Female Aid.

266. There are only three female dispensaries in the province though there is a very considerable demand for female medical aid. A scheme has been formulated for the appointment of a female sub-assistant surgeon or a midwife at all headquarters and subdivisional stations, but it is idle to hope for its fulfilment without a considerable amount of aid from private sources. The fact that nearly four-fifths of the adult patients treated at dispensaries during the year were males proves the existence of a prejudice against the treatment of females by male attendants and the urgency of a scheme for female medical aid.

Sylhet Leper Asylum.

267. The daily average of lepers treated rose from 15·39 in 1909 to 17·32 in 1910. Decidedly satisfactory results were obtained from the use of Nastin. All the patients treated did well and there was a marked improvement in their general health.

General.

268. The treatment of dysentery by hypodermic injections of Forster's vaccine has failed to give definite results. The experiments in the use of intraperitoneal injections of saline in cases of cholera, which were carried out at Barisal have met with better fate. Out of 29 cases so treated only 3 ended in death and in these cases tympanitis had appeared before the treatment was begun.

Administrative changes.

269. The pay of sub-assistant surgeons was improved during the year. The pay of compounders has also been raised subject to the condition that they have passed the qualifying examination.

SECTION 4.—LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Lunatic Asylums in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

Asylum population.

270. During the year 1910 there were 138 admissions and 10 re-admissions to the asylums. The number of discharges was 88, and two lunatics escaped, the year closing with 580 lunatics in confinement. About fifty per cent. of the inmates were criminal lunatics and the majority were drawn from the cultivating and labouring classes.

Fifty-four per cent. of the inmates were suffering from mania, and a further 27 per cent. from melancholia.

The causes of insanity amongst the lunatics admitted during the year could be discovered in 70 cases only. Of these 70 cases, 58 were due to physical causes, and of these 58 cases, 24 were attributed to the abuse of *ganja*. No case was attributed to the effects of opium-smoking.

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Health.

271. The number of admissions to hospital was 300, and the number of deaths 62. There was a considerable fall in the number of deaths due to tubercle in the Dacca asylum, where a separate ward has been provided for these patients, and it is expected that a similar precautionary measure, which is being put in hand at the Tezpur asylum, will be followed by similarly satisfactory results.

Finances.

272. The average cost of maintaining a lunatic fell at both asylums being Rs. 105-10-9 at Dacca and Rs. 97-4-5 at Tezpur as against Rs. 107-4-2 and Rs. 111-12-6, respectively, in the previous year.

Accommodation.

273. There was again slight overcrowding amongst the male inmates of the Dacca asylum and considerable overcrowding at the Tezpur asylum. A proposal for a big central asylum has been submitted to Government, but it is probable that financial considerations will preclude the work from being taken up for some time.

SECTION 5.—Sanitation.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910.]

Sanitation.

274. Municipalities continued to spend an increasing proportion of their income on sanitary work Their total income decreased by about half a lakh of rupees but the expenditure on sanitation rose by Rs. 44,000 The highest percentage was spent by the city of Dacca (77·73), while three other towns spent over 60 per cent.

Municipal expenditure.

Sanitary works and schemes.

275. At Dacca the rough project of a sewerage scheme involving an expenditure of 13 lakhs of rupees has been drawn up and the preparation of the detailed project is under consideration. A comprehensive scheme for the construction of a surface drainage system and the canalisation of the *khals* is also under consideration. The remodelling of the Dacca water works was completed during the year under report.

At Barisal the construction of water works, costing Rs. 1,60,000, has been put in hand and at Chittagong a scheme has been drawn up for supplying the town with water from Artesian wells at a cost of 4 lakhs of rupees.

At Shillong the scheme for supplying the station with water from two streams and remodelling the water works has been sanctioned and the work has been taken up since the close of the year. Other schemes, which are ready to be taken up or are under preparation are schemes for the supply of water at Narayanganj, Chandpur, Sitakund, Rampur-Boalia, Nator, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Rangamati, Haflong and Manipur, and for the drainage of Comilla, Rangpur and Dinajpur.

A scheme for the improvement of the drainage of Nator by the canalisation of *khals* and by the adoption of devices which will accelerate the deposit of silt in low-lying areas has been sanctioned as an experimental measure and funds allotted. The results of this experiment will be of the greatest importance to this province. The improvement of water supplies in rural areas was aided by a grant of Rs. 80,000, which was placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Board, who distributed nearly Rs. 74,000 during the year. The grants are made as grants in aid of the efforts of local bodies and the local public. In the majority of cases the local bodies and the local inhabitants subscribed a share equal to that given by Government. The demand for sanitary works is steadily growing. In the great majority of district headquarters and in a large number of subdivisions sanitary works of permanent utility and involving the expenditure of a considerable amount of capital are either in progress or under contemplation, but their completion or inception is greatly hindered by the paucity of funds at the disposal of Government.

Sale of quinine.

276. The year under report was one of great change. The sale of quinine in treatments, consisting of twenty four-grain tabloids of hydrochloride of quinine was substituted for the sale of pice packets. Ten phials, each containing twenty tabloids, are sold to the agent for Re. 1-7-0 and the agent is allowed to retail the phials at 3 annas each. The new treatments were not distributed

till late in the year and it is yet too early to judge the effects of the change, but it is to be expected that the increased cost of a unit will result in some curtailment of consumption until the superiority of the new method of treatment becomes apparent. Eight thousand posters in the Bengali language illustrating the value of quinine have been distributed over the province for exhibition at railway stations, post offices, thanas, schools and other prominent places. One hundred thousand almanacs interleaved with advertisements of quinine and short sentences on its use have been printed for distribution among school children.

The proper distribution of quinine in certain districts has been hindered by the paucity of post offices and arrangements have been made for the utilisation of the services of schoolmasters and railway station masters as agents for its sale. The figures for the year under report appear to show a set back in the sale of quinine but an examination of the figure shows that the decrease is more than accounted for by the decrease of the sales in Bakarganj where they were abnormally high in the previous year. In the remaining districts there has been a small but steady increase.

Malarial operations.

277. The services of Dr. Bentley have been engaged for a period of five years to organise and supervise the campaign against malaria on a scheme which has been drawn up by the Sanitary Board. The measures to be taken include a malarial survey of the province, the compilation of statistics to mark the epidemic and endemic areas, the formation of demonstration camps to illustrate the value of quinine and to propagate its use, the issue of sanitary text books and a study of the life-history of the parasite. The results of the anti-larval operations which have been carried out at Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri have demonstrated the futility of attempting to exterminate mosquito larvæ over wide areas and no further experiments of this description are proposed.

Epidemics.

278. There was an outbreak of *kala-azar* in the Golaghat sub-division during the year. A house-to-house survey was made and the proper methods of combating the disease explained to panchayats and *gaonburas*. Major Christophers was deputed by the Government of India to make an enquiry into the disease.

An outbreak of pneumonic plague in the Noakhali district resulted in the death of 45 persons.

Section 6.—Vaccination.

[*See* the Vaccination Returns of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910-11; Statistics of British India, Part V.]

Vaccination Staff.

279. Vaccination is carried out in Eastern Bengal by licensed vaccinators who are entitled to the aid of Government in recovering their fees. In the greater part of Assam the work is carried out by paid vaccinators.

The inspecting staff consisted of 24 inspectors and 63 sub-inspectors, who inspected 85·88 per cent. of the primary vaccinations and 63·77 per cent. of re-vaccinations. The amount of inspection done by Civil Surgeons was far from satisfactory and an attempt is being made to ensure that this branch of their work receives more attention. It is probable that special inspecting officers for vaccination and vital statistics will have to be appointed in the near future.

Operations performed.

280. The total number of vaccinations performed during the year was 1,381,560. The percentage of successful primary cases in which the results were ascertainable was 96·49. The average cost of each successful operation was one and a half annas.

Muhammadan weavers and Ferazi Muhammadans in the district of Mymensingh, the Ruffadin Muhammadans in the Rajshahi Division and the Mahapurushiyas in Assam continued to oppose vaccination on religious grounds.

Vaccine Depot.

281. The depôt continued to do excellent work in spite of the fact that it is small and without any proper apparatus for cold storage. It is impossible to preserve a large supply for emergencies and the construction of a new depôt is a pressing need.

Cost.

282. The total cost of the Department of the year was Rs. 1,16,702, of which Rs. 16,762 was provided from the funds of District and Local Boards and Rs. 5,418 by Municipalities.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—General system of Public Instruction.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, Part II, pages 185-190.)]

SECTION 2.—Education.

[See General Report on Public Instruction in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1910-1911; Statistics of British India, Part VII.]

Inspecting Agencies.

283. The Government inspecting staff consisted of five Divisional Inspectors, three Second Inspectors, eight AssistantInspectors, 59 Deputy Inspectors, 147 Sub-Inspectors, and 11 Assistant Sub-Inspectors aided by 64 inspecting pandits. The number of Sub-Inspectors was insufficient in all the divisions, and in Dacca the average number of primary schools under each Sub-Inspector amounted to the very large figure of 170. Provision is being made for the training of Deputy and Sub-Inspectors in the Dacca Training College, but the task is rendered difficult by the inadequate educational equipment of many officers of the latter class.

The staff for the inspection of girls' schools was strengthened by the addition of a second Inspectress and now comprise two Inspectresses and two Assistant Inspectresses. The province was divided into two charges, one including the Chittagong and Surma Valley divisions with the exclusion of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and the other comprising the rest of the province.

There was a general failure on the part of the subordinate inspecting staff to attain the minimum standard of inspections, and in the Dacca division over 500 primary schools remained unvisited.

Colleges.

284. The Dacca College obtained affiliation to the M. A. Standard in English. The scheme for raising the status and improving the staff and accommodation of the Chittagong College made good progress, and B. A. classes were opened in July 1910. Improvements were also made in the Rajshahi and Cotton Colleges. The Ananda Mohan College received the second half of the sanctioned grant of Rs. 55,000, and has now been provided with suitable buildings. A grant of over Rs. 12,000 was made to the Jagannath College for the enlargement of its compound. More than one quarter of the 2,418 college students were accommodated in hostels and over five hundred in supervised messes. The unsatisfactory condition of supervised messes and the neglect of proper measures to house and control school students led to the appointment of an Inspector of Residence and Proctor at Dacca.

High schools.

285. There were at the close of the year 29 Government, 1 Municipal, 57 aided and 130 unaided high schools. The expenditure on these institutions amounted to Rs. 12,78,000, including nearly eleven lakhs from endowments, subscriptions and fees. The number of pupils on the rolls was over 64,000. A large proportion of the unaided schools are badly managed, housed and staffed and many of the aided schools are little better. The demand for admission into several of the Government schools is rapidly outgrowing the accommodation and extensive additions are being planned and carried out. There were 2,078 candidates for the matriculation examination, 827 passed in the first division, 562 in the second and 57 in the third.

Middle schools.

286. The number of Middle English schools rose from 599 to 660, the number of pupils from 58,555 to 71,349, and the expenditure from Rs. 5,49,288 to Rs. 6,28,382. A survey of these schools, lately completed, shows that in most cases the staff is inefficient, ill-qualified, and untrained. Libraries are non-existent and management and accommodation are alike unsatisfactory.

The middle vernacular schools continue to decline in popularity and the universal desire to learn English makes it difficult to arrest their decay.

Primary schools.

287. The number of boys reading in primary classes of secondary schools rose to over a lakh and the number in primary schools to about 6,53,000. In the latter case the net increase was only 3,208, and the total remains below that

recorded in 1908-1909. The statistics for individual districts show great divergence, some districts, such as Dacca, Noakhali, Jalpaiguri and Malda giving a very considerable rise, and others, especially Mymensingh and Faridpur, an even greater fall. The two districts last named account for a total diminution of nearly 4,500 pupils. The reports of the Inspectors show that the main causes of decline were the previous inclusion in the roll of ephemeral schools with no substantial claim to be classed as public institutions and the withdrawal of aid from a certain number of schools with a view to concentrate funds on the improvement of better institutions. The expenditure on primary schools increased from Rs. 17,75,000 to Rs. 18,31,000, the average cost of a pupil per annum working out at Rs. 3-0-2.

Technical education.

288. Some progress was made in schemes for improving technical schools in accordance with the recommendations of the Industrial Conference.

Training of teachers.

289. The Dacca Training College was opened in July 1910 and received 24 students, of whom twenty were Government servants. Two hundred and ninety-three secondary vernacular teachers attended the five normal schools and 76 passed the final examination The 47 elementary training schools for primary teachers had a total of 954 pupils. Out of a total of 32,213 teachers employed in secondary and primary schools only 4,946 are reported to have had any kind of training, The increasing unpopularity of middle vernacular schools adds to the difficulty experienced in obtaining a sufficient supply of suitable material from which to make primary teachers.

Female education.

290. Special attention was devoted to the improvement of secondary schools at district headquarters and to the primary schools at Dacca. A new vernacular curriculum with special teachers' manuals was prepared. The total number of girls' schools, including zenana classes, rose by 319 to 4,550 and the number of pupils by 8,936 to 1,31,139. The number of girls in the high stage increased from 52 to 74 and in the middle stage from 164 to 199. Zenana classes made good progress.

Muhammadan education.

291. The number of Muhammadan pupils increased by 2·8 per cent. while Hindus increased by 3·3 per cent. The percentage of Muhammadan pupils to the total number reading in high, middle and primary schools is 26·4, 41·6 and 55·1, respectively, against 25·8, 39·8 and 55·2 in the previous year. Special measures affecting the interests of Muhammadans were the opening of a second year's course in the training classes for maulvis at Dacca and Chittagong, the teaching of Urdu as an optional subject, the survey of private madrassas, the consideration by a special committee of a scheme of madrassa reform, and the preparation of maktab readers.

Finance.

292. The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 73,05,000, an increase of 10·7 per cent. over the figures of the previous year. The increase in provincial expenditure was Rs. 27,00,000 and in private subscriptions Rs. 1,10,000. Fees increased by over three lakhs of rupees, while grants from local funds remained almost stationary. The average cost per pupil was Rs. 8-4-0 and the total expenditure per head of population Re. 0-3-4.

SECTION 3.—Literature and the Press.

[*See* Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Publications registered.

293. The total number of publications received and catalogued in 1910 under Act XXV of 1867, as amended by Act X of 1890, was 530 as compared with 201 in the preceding year and 223 in 1908. These figures furnish clear evidence of an increased literary activity, which is marked under all heads except "Poetry." Three-hundred and forty of the publications are written in Bengali, 32 in Assamese and 29 in English. The copyright of 12 books was registered. Of the works registered, 357 are educational, and of these 237 are general school books and keys. Next to scholastic works, books on religious subjects form the most numerous class. Almost all of these relate to Hinduism under one aspect or another. Few of the publications call for individual comment, but it is interesting to note that two monthly magazines dealing with agriculture were registered.

Chap. VII.

INSTRUCTION.

As a result of the Press Act no production of a directly seditious nature was registered during the year, but the activity of the disseminators of revolutionary leaflets which are distributed secretly remained undiminished. The tone of not a few of the publications is political and the intention of several is to lower the prestige of the British. On the whole, the year's productions are dull and disappointing and a considerable proportion are hardly worthy of the name of literature.

Newspaper.

294. At the commencement of the year there were 2 English and 51 Vernacular papers in existence and at the close 3 English and 43 Vernacular.

None of the papers enjoyed a circulation of 2,000 copies while the circulation of considerably more than half the number is estimated to have been 500 or less.

The passing of the Press Act damped the vituperative activity of the vernacular press, although only three papers were called upon to furnish security. Two of these were extremist organs of Sylhet and the third a magazine of Faridpur. In no case was the security forthcoming and all these publications ceased to exist. The issue of another paper was discontinued on the conviction of its proprietor and printer on a charge of sedition, and a fifth, conducted by a notorious Mussalman agitator and published at Chittagong, died a natural death. Four papers published articles which fell within the purview of the Press Act but it was considered sufficient to administer warnings. These warnings were all given during the first half of the year and effectively demonstrated the powers conferred upon Government by the new Act.

Two Muhammadan papers were in existence at the beginning of the year, but both ceased publication in March and for the rest of the year the Muhammadan community which forms the great majority of the province remained without an organ to voice their claims. The more important topics discussed during the year were the alleged persecution of Indians in South Africa; the increase of dakaities which was attributed to the supineness of the police; the judgments of the courts in political cases which were viewed and criticised with the same political bias displayed in previous years; the acquittal or discharge of those put on their trial being made the occasion for diatribes against those responsible for their prosecutions; the working of the Indian University Act, the University Regulations, the inadequacy of sanitary arrangements; the need of good drinking water; the incompetence of Municipal Commissioners; the suppression of three district conferences; the partition of Bengal, the Seditious Meetings Act; the Press Act; and the death of the late King-Emperor.

SECTION 4.—Scientific and Literary Societies.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-06, Part II, Page 194.]

SECTION 5.—Arts and Sciences.

Nil.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Work of the year.

295. Rupees 4,339 were allotted for archæological work in the province.

Seven cannon, made of a metal resembling brass, were found at Dewânbâg in the subdivision of Nârâyanganj in July 1910. The muzzles of four of the cannon are fashioned to resemble tiger's heads and from the inscription decipherable on one of them they appear to have been cast in the middle of the sixteenth century. Two date from the end of that century, while the period to which the seventh belongs cannot be determined. Still a more valuable find was that of five metal images at Sâhebganj in the Rangpur district. The images, each of which differs in detail from the rest, are representations of the god Vishnu. They belong to the Pâla period (800-1200 A.D.) and are made of bronze. A zemindar of the Rangpur district has presented the Government of India with a golden image, dating from the time of the Greek invaders, which he was fortunate enough to purchase from a sepoy who obtained it from an Afghan in the last Tirah expedition.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1905-1906, page 196.]

SECTION 2.—Ecclesiastical.

296. The Ecclesiastical establishment of the Province, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of Chaplains at Dacca, Shillong, Chittagong, Saidpur, Silchar, Darrang, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur. The incomes of the Chaplains at the six last mentioned stations are supplemented by grants from the Additional Clergy Society, the Calcutta Diocesan Additional Clergy Society, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and from funds raised by private subscription.

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

Stationery.

297. The total value of stationery supplied in 1910-1911 was Rs. 3,74,440 as compared with Rs. 4,28,458 in 1909-1910. The value of the stationery supplied to Printing Presses decreased by nearly Rs. 84,000.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

Printing.

298. The cash receipts of the Secretariat Press amounted to Rs. 6,989 and the total expenditure to Rs. 3,09,667. The Press building at Dacca was finally completed shortly after the close of the year and is in every way suitable for the housing of an up-to-date press. The cash receipts of the Jail Press amounted to Rs. 4,225 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,29,324.

Section 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year 1910-1911.]

Veterinary work.

299. The total mortality amongst bovines reported during the year was 41,960, compared with 50,276 in the preceding year, and 85,476 in the year 1908-1909. The steady decrease is very statisfactory and shows that the Department is gradually acquiring a mastery over contagious diseases which cannot fail to confer substantial benefits on the community. There were 344 outbreaks during which inoculation was practised. Seven thousand three hundred and sixty-one animals died before it began while out of 36,965 inoculated only 291 succumbed. Itinerant Assistants of the Department visited 9,447 villages and treated 90,101 animals. The number of animals treated for contagious diseases decreased by 2,138 and the number treated for non-contagious diseases increased by 8,658. The figures again indicate that the prevalence of contagious diseases is decreasing.

Breeding operations.

300. Twenty-five more stud bulls were added during the year and several applications were received from local bodies for bulls for breeding purposes. These applications prove that local bodies are beginning to take an interest in this important question, but great difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable animals and a scheme for breeding bulls is under consideration.

A sheep breeding experiment was carried out at the Upper Shillong Farm, with very satisfactory results.

General.

301. The continued shortage in the supply of serum caused much anxiety to the Veterinary Department. The work of which was also handicapped by the lack of adequate accommodation for its headquarters at Dacca.

Collection of Statistics.

302. It is to be feared that very little reliance can be placed on the statistics of mortality amongst bovines which are collected by District Officers through the police and the village chaukidars. Villagers are slow in suspecting the presence of disease and still slower in reporting it. In many cases information is received so late that it is impossible to check it. The same difficulty is experienced in the case of statements of contagious diseases which are

received annually from District Officers. A quarterly statement would allow of verification by the local Veterinary Assistants but it is impossible to allow them to spend their time in checking or collecting statistics when they can be more profitably employed in combating disease. The figures, therefore, cannot be taken to as affording any exact criterion whereby the prevalence of disease can be measured, but they are useful as a means of comparing the work done in different years.

In the Assam Valley where there is a regular land revenue staff in close touch with the cultivators, the figures of mortality are higher than elsewhere. This again seems to indicate that the figures for the rest of the province are incomplete.

303. The work of the head office has increased greatly since the inception of the Department and the question of its re-organisation will have to be taken up shortly. Head Office.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM, 1911-1912.

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GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR

1911-1912.

PART I.--GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM.

Tours.

Sir Lancelot Hare left Shillong on the 17th July 1911 for a tour in Assam. He visited in succession Gauhati, Tezpur and Dibrugarh, reached Silchar on the 9th August, and left for Dacca on the 11th.

Sir Charles Bayley paid visits to Dibrugarh and Tezpur in November 1911.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the Administration.

2. On the afternoon of the 22nd August 1911, Sir Lancelot Hare, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., resigned the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam which he had held since the 20th August 1906. He was succeeded by Sir Charles Stuart Bayley, K.C.S.I.

Assam was throughout the year an integral part of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam which was created in 1905. From the 1st April 1912 it again became a separate Administration, in accordance with the Proclamation of His Imperil Majesty the King-Emperor, made at Delhi on the 12th December 1911.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Manipur.

3. The gross total revenue of the State was Rs. 5,18,626, against Rs. 4,95,526 in the preceding year. Receipts from land revenue increased by nearly Rs. 7,000. A prosperous year resulted in smaller remissions and a higher percentage of collections.

The total expenditure was Rs. 5,46,795 against Rs. 4,56,863 in the preceding year, the large increase being mainly due to the Coronation Durbar and to the water-works project. The reserve was depleted to the extent of Rs. 28,169, the closing balance being Rs. 3,02,956.

The rainfall was normal and the outturn of rice in the valley was good, although in places the crop was somewhat damaged by insects. There was, however, an almost complete failure of the rice crop in the Kuki villages in the south-west hill tracts. There was nothing approaching a state of famine, as the people were able to eke out their supply of rice with edible roots.

The Manipur Company, Limited, proved unable to work its silk venture at a profit.

The water-works for Imphal were not completed though considerable progress was made with the scheme.

Frontier tribes.

4. The principal event of the year was the despatch of a military expedition under the command of Major General Bower, C.B., into the Abor Hills to avenge the murder of Mr. Williamson and the party with him. Friendly mission at the same time visited the Mishmi and the Miri Hills.

The conduct of the other frontier tribes calls for no comment and no military operations against them were necessary.

In the Naga Hills, the guard which was posted at Melomi in the cold weather of 1909-10 was withdrawn. Our relations with the independent tribes on the borders of the district were friendly. Across the frontier raiding, head-taking and the burning of villages were as frequent as ever. No progress was made in the administration of the newly annexed tract of country to the east of the Dikhu, but sanction was given to the construction of a suspension bridge over the Dikhu river and a road from Tamlu through the newly acquired territory into the Sibsagar district.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the people.

5. The general conditions of the year were on the whole favourable to cultivation although the rice crops suffered to some extent in certain localities from floods, insects, and rats.

The condition of the cultivating and labouring classes was, generally speaking, satisfactory in all districts except the Lushai Hills where scarcity of a severe type prevailed owing to the damage caused by rats to food crops.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Realisation of the revenue.

6. There was an increase of 11·5 square miles in the revenue-paying area representing a corresponding increase of Rs. 80,653 in the revenue demand. The percentage of current collections on current demand was cent. per cent. in several districts and exceeded 99 per cent. in all districts except Sylhet. The number of notices of demand issued under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation decreased by 4,345, but it was necessary to have recourse to sales to a somewhat greater extent than in the previous year. The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue rose from Rs. 6,16,340 to Rs. 6,35,815 and the aggregate collections amounted to Rs. 6,22,599.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and settlements.

7. In the Lakhimpur district a skeleton survey of about 90 tea grants was made during the year. In addition, thirteen other surveys, mostly linear relaying works, were executed in the several districts of the province. The Shillong Drawing office printed 41,632 copies of village maps for Assam and also carried out a good deal of miscellaneous work.

The resettlement operations in the Lakhimpur district, comprising an area of 709 square miles, were brought to a close during the year and resulted in an increase of 11·43 per cent. in the revenue assessed on ordinary cultivation. In Cachar 57 *Jangalburi* mahals were resettled. The resettlement of certain petty temporarily-settled estates in Sylhet and of Dibrugarh town was in progress at the close of the year.

LAND RECORDS.

Land records.

8. During the year 19 mandals and 1 Kanungo were added to the Land Records staff.

SETTLEMENTS FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlement for special cultivation.

9. The area settled for special cultivation increased during the year by 12,727 acres and the revenue by Rs. 16,886.

WARDS' ESTATES.

Wards' estates.

10. There were five estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the close of the year. No new estate was taken under management, nor was any estate released during the year. Excepting those in the estate of the late Maulvi Golam Rabbani Chaudhuri the collections in all the estates were unsatisfactory and the balances unduly large. Payments on account of rent and cesses to superior landlords were made in full.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

11. The year was on the whole a favourable one for the cultivating and labouring classes. The wages of labourers ruled high, while the prices of the principal food stuffs were lower than in the previous year.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Legislation.

12. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Court of Wards (Amendment) Act, 1911 (Act I of 1911), and the Eastern Bengal and Assam Military Police Act, 1912 (Act III of 1912), were passed in the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council during the year.

POLICE.

Military Police.

13. The behaviour of the men in the various Military Police Battalions was satisfactory, and there was only one serious breach of discipline. The force was tested under service conditions to an altogether unusual extent.

In January 1911 a column consisting of one native officer and 101 rifles, under the command of Major Bliss, successfully co-operated with a column from Burma in punishing the independent Naga village of Makware for a raid on a village in British Burma.

The operations rendered necessary by the murder of Mr. Williamson and his party threw very heavy work on the Lakhimpur Battalion in particular and on the Military Police generally. Officers and men alike acquitted themselves well, both in the initial advance to Pasighat and in the subsequent operations. Special mention must be made of Captain Hutchins, Assistant Commandant, whose death, while on the Abor Expedition, was deeply regretted by the whole force. Three officers and three hundred men of the Lakhimpur Battalion were employed with the Abor Expeditionary Force. The Mishmi Mission had an escort of 200 men from the Naga Hills Battalion and 150 from the Dacca Battalion, while 100 men of the Naga Hills Battalion went with the Miri Mission. The Police employed on the Abor Expedition and the two Missions all acquitted themselves well.

Civil Police.

14. Considerable progress was made with the sanctioned scheme for the reorganization of the Subordinate Police. The total cost of the Department was Rs. 19,26,849 as compared with Rs. 18,78,846 in 1910. The behaviour of the men of the Armed Reserve was, on the whole, satisfactory, and the discipline of the ordinary Reserve, except in Sylhet and Sibsagar, was fair. A higher standard of discipline was enforced, and punishments were more numerous than in the preceding year. The difficulty of finding suitable recruits locally continued to be felt, while the number of resignations was unchanged, dismissals being more frequent.

Successful measures were taken to deal with running train thefts on the Assam-Bengal Railway.

In the Constables' Training School, Silchar, drill and discipline were good.

The Police investigated a larger proportion of cases reported direct, or referred by Magistrates for enquiry. Of the cases investigated, 56·6 per cent. were sent up for trial against 57·9 per cent. in 1910.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Criminal Justice.

15. The accounts of the administration of Criminal and of Civil Justice are briefer than usual. The reports of the High Court, on which the accounts are based, dealt with the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam and did not give separate treatment to Assam. Two Sessions Judges, and a Subordinate Judge vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge, were employed throughout the year. The Magisterial staff consisted of 64 Stipendiary Magistrates and 26 Honorary Magistrates. There were 35,983 reports of criminal offences, of which 13,125 were dismissed and 934 were struck off as false. The Courts dealt with 21,259 cases, 1,817 more than in 1910. In the Magistrates' Courts the number of witnesses examined was 50,784, of whom 443 only were reported to have been detained for more than three days. In Sylhet, there was a marked increase in the number of proceedings under Chapter VIII of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In the Courts of Session commitments exceeded those of 1910. Of 386 persons tried, 264 were convicted and sentenced, the cases of 4 were referred for the orders of the High Court and 118 were acquitted. There was a slight increase in the number of appeals preferred. Original orders were upheld in 64 per cent. of the cases, modified in 19·09 and reversed in 14·5 per cent. No death sentence was passed.

JAILS.

Jails.

16. Owing to a larger number of admissions during the year the average daily jail population rose from 1,929 to 1,987 and led to occasional overcrowding, which was to a certain extent responsible for the general ill-health. The year 1911 was, however, otherwise an unhealthy one, and the death-rate was consequently heavier. The net cost increased by about Rs. 16 per head of average strength.

Civil Justice.

17. There was an increase of 1,472 in the number of original suits instituted, and the receipts of the Courts rose by Rs. 18,184.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

18. The total number of registrations slightly increased during the year, the increase being marked under the heads " sales " and " mortgages."

Ten new Companies were registered under the Indian Companies Act, most of which were Insurance Companies with small paid-up capital.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Municipalities.

19. Though there was a decrease in the local income of municipalities, their aggregate income was greater, a fact which is accounted for by the large grants for water-supply made by Government. Revised assessments yielded substantial increments in the case of two municipalities, but the percentage of collections remained almost stationary. Though there was a falling off in the number of meetings held, the average percentage of attendance rose. Some progress was made in the improvement of water-supply arrangements, particularly in Shillong and Gauhati.

Local Boards.

20. The working of the Local Boards during the year was on the whole satisfactory. The Boards expended 24·58 per cent. of their aggregate income on the promotion of education, and goodprogress was made in the opening of new dispensaries and in dealing with epidemics. The experiment of deputing Sub-Assistant Surgeons to attend markets with the object of affording medical relief to persons attending them was continued and found successful. One Veterinary Assistant is employed by each of the Boards and services of these officers are reported to have been much appreciated by the villagers.

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

21. The Volunteer Corps of the province maintained their strength and efficiency.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Agriculture and horticulture.

22. The department did useful work during the year. Some valuable research work was carried out in connection with high-land soil investigation. The use of bonemeal as a manure for winter rice and of Bordeaux mixture as a preventive of potato disease was successfully demonstrated.

The dissemination of agricultural knowledge was carried out by officers investigating outbreaks of crop disease, by the distribution of seed and implements and by successful demonstrations of the use of manure and of the treatment of crop diseases in villages.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Societies.

23. The steady progress which has characterised the Co-operative movement in Assam from the beginning was maintained during the year.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and Crops.

24. The weather during the year was on the whole favourable ; there were floods in June, July and August in some districts, but no unusual damage was caused. The outturn of rice exceeded that of last year by nearly one lakh of tons, and prices were on the whole slightly lower. The outturn of jute was less than last year.

FORESTS.

Forests.

25. The total area of reserved forests was reduced by 24·4 square miles owing to disforestations, while an addition of 8 square miles was made to the unclassed State forests. The existing working plans were fairly worked up to save where want of labour or demand stood in the way. The gross revenue was Rs. 11,17,569 against Rs. 13,01,640 in the preceding year. The decrease was mainly due to the fact that advances amounting to Rs. 1,73,000 were received in Goalpara in the previous year for timber supplied during the year under review.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Tea.

26. The year was on the whole a prosperous one for the tea industry. The weather and rainfall were favourable, the demand for tea abroad was greater, and prices ruled higher than in the preceding year. The only drawbacks were shortage to some extent in labour, the increased cost of recruiting and the physical inferiority of the imported coolies.

Mines.

27. Seven prospecting licenses were issued during the year. The royalty on coal and oil amounted to Rs. 64,016.

FACTORIES.

Factories.

28. Eighteen factories were at work at the close of the year as in the previous year. There was a slight increase in the number of operatives employed and the percentage of children employed rose from 5·6 to 6·0. The sanitary arrangements and the general health of the operatives were satisfactory. There were no prosecutions under the Act.

TRADE.

Rail and River-borne Trade.

29. The total value of the trade of Assam with other provinces in the year under review was 1,858 lakhs of rupees, of which 581 lakhs represent imports and 1,277 lakhs exports. The exports of tea increased by 307,030 maunds, the expansion being due to better outturn and higher prices. There were no fluctuations of importance in the quantity of jute exported. Of the cotton piece-goods imported, 78 per cent. in value were manufactured in foreign countries and 22 per cent. in India.

Frontier Trade.

30. The aggregate value of the trade registered was Rs. 49,66,107, as compared with Rs. 5,38,620 reported last year. The figures are of no value, as the returns sent in by one registration officer were found to have been fabricated.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Public Works.

31. The total expenditure on Provincial Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department amounted to Rs. 29,26,181. Of this amount, a sum of Rs. 5,08,062 was spent on Original Works in connection with provincial buildings and Rs. 1,87,948 on Repairs. On Original Works (Communications), a sum of Rs. 5,71,587 was expended and the maintenance of provincial roads absorbed Rs. 8,31,173.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross revenue.

32. The gross receipts for the year, Imperial and Provincial revenues included, and receipts on account of State Railways excluded, amounted to Rs. 1,58,30,909. This represents an increase of Rs. 32,63,629, over the figure for the year 1904-05, the last year for which separate accounts were kept for Assam as a separate province.

Land revenue.

33. The total ordinary land revenue demand amounted to Rs. 72,36,111, of which Rs. 69,03,979 were collected and Rs. 7,615 remitted on account of local calamities. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of Rs. 1,00,773 in the demand. The total collections of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 6,22,599.

Salt.

34. There was only one salt warehouse in the province, at Balaganj in Sylhet. Imports increased by 23,023 maunds, and net revenue by Rs. 7,870. The wholesale price remained at Rs. 2-4 per maund.

Excise.

35. The total revenue demand amounted to Rs. 44,50,807 as compared with Rs. 43,32,811 in the previous year. Favourable settlements and a rise in the consumption of country spirit and *ganja* contributed to the increase, which represents 2·7 per cent. on the last year's revenue. Almost the whole of the revenue from country liquor is realised under the contract supply system, which has resulted in a continued decrease in drunkenness.

The contract for the working of the Jorhat Distillery was renewed for three years, with effect from the 1st April 1912, with the former contractors, Messrs. Forbes and Chalmers.

Stamps.

36. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court Fees Acts rose from Rs. 11,39,581 to Rs. 11,85,941 during the year under report. Judicial stamps were entirely responsible for the increase.

Income-tax.

37. Income-tax receipts increased by 8·9 per cent. The final demand for the year was Rs. 3,03,044.

Provincial finance.

38. There was no separate financial settlement for Assam for the year 1911-12, as it then formed part of the late province of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Local Funds.

39. The financial position of the funds, of which an account is still submitted to Government, was strong. The total closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 6,55,874-6-11.

Local rates.

40. The total demand increased by Rs. 5,024 as compared with the previous year. The percentage of total collections on total demand was 87·44 as against 89·89 in 1910-11.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics.

41. The death-rate for the year 1911 was lower than that of previous year, being 23·51 as against 34·37 per mille.

The birth-rate fell from 36·52 to 31·84 per mille.

The temperature was approximately normal and crops on the whole were good.

The ratio of mortality from fever is much higher than that from any other disease.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

Immigration.

42. The year was again a prosperous one for the tea industry. The demand for labour steadily increased and there was a considerable increase in immigration, although this was not assisted by scarcity in the recruiting districts. The mortality during transit remained at a low figure, and the year was a healthy one in the tea gardens.

MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

Charitable dispensaries.

43. The year was a comparatively healthy one. There were 206 dispensaries working in the province at the close of the year. The number of patients treated during the year was 1,518,824 against 1,488,214 in the previous year.

In the Leper Asylum at Sylhet, which is the only institution of its kind in the province, the system of treatment with Dr. Deycke's Nastine was tried on a comprehensive scale and the results were very encouraging.

Lunatic Asylums.

44. The Tezpur Lunatic Asylum is the only institution of its kind in the province. There were 236 lunatics in the asylum at the beginning of the year and 232 at its close, of whom 79 were criminal lunatics.

Tubercular diseases were prevalent in the asylum. Special steps are being taken to segregate completely patients suffering from tuberculosis and to remedy the present overcrowding. It is anticipated that these measures will render the asylum more healthy.

45. During the year large grants were made by Government to the Shillong and Jorhat Municipalities in aid of water-supply schemes. The Shillong water-works were completed and that town has now an excellent supply of piped-water. There was a large demand for the new "Treatments" of hydrochloride of quinine, 13,986 parcels being sold to the public during the year. Sanitation.

The investigation into the causes of *kala-azar* was continued.

VACCINATION.

46. During the year, 305,845 vaccination operations were performed, against 257,693 during the previous year, the increase being chiefly in Sylhet and Kamrup. The rate of mortality from small-pox was ·35 per mille against ·28 in the previous year. Inspection work by Civil Surgeons has improved. Vaccination.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

47. During the year under review expenditure increased from Rs. 13,34,580 to Rs. 16,09,062, while the number of pupils attending all classes of schools rose from 1,68,250 to 1,82,112, an increase of over 8 per cent. Education.

The demand for Collegiate and High School education continued to grow. The number of students in the two Colleges rose from 230 to 295, and that in High Schools from 8,236 to 8,924. Middle English Schools grew in number and attendance, but Middle Vernacular Schools did not keep pace with the general progress.

Primary education continued to make steady progress.

Tols declined as regards both numbers and attendance. Madrassas, on the other hand, showed some improvement in both respects.

Female education made a satisfactory advance, the number of women and girls attending school having increased from 15,799 to 17,931.

The number of Muhammadan pupils is increasing rapidly in all classes of schools.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

48. The number of publications received and catalogued was 37 against 62 in the preceding year. Literature and the Press.

Sixteen newspapers were published. Their tone, with an exception here and there, was unobjectionable.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

49. No new monuments were declared to be protected during the year under review.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VETERINARY.

50. The number of inoculations carried out by Veterinary Assistants showed a very considerable increase and was to some extent instrumental in checking the ravages of rinderpest which is responsible for half the total mortalityamong cattle from contagious diseases. The insufficiency of the existing staff and defective reporting of local outbreaks have been the principle causes which have hitherto hampered the work of the Department.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

PART II.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

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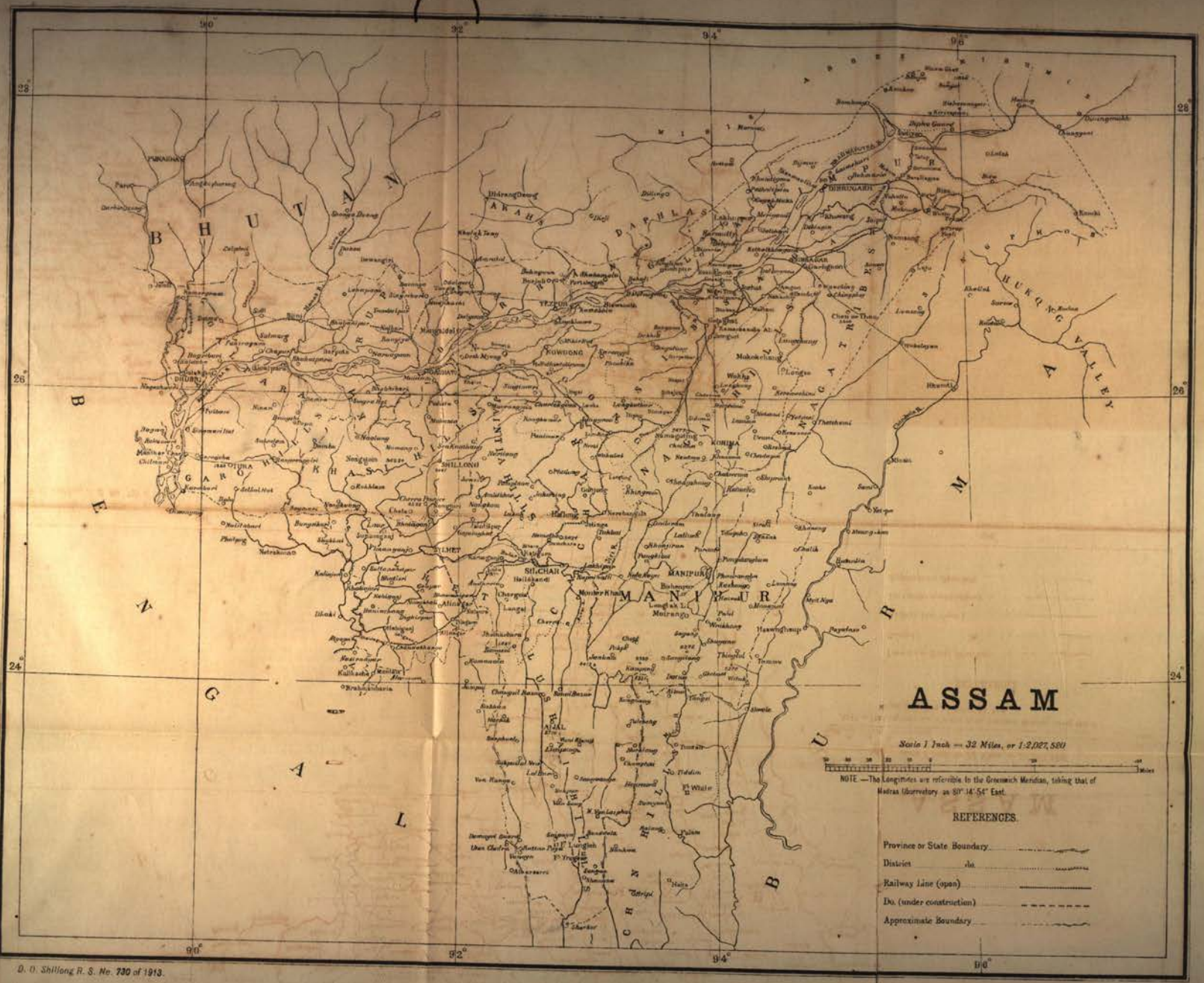

D. O. Shillong R. S. No. 730 of 1913.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1911-1912.

PART II—REPORT.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

SECTION 1.—Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.

Boundaries and area.

The Province of Assam, which lies on the north-eastern border of Bengal, and is one of the frontier Provinces of the Indian Empire, is situated between 22° 19′ and 28° 16′ N. and 89° 42′ and 97° 12′ E. It is bounded on the north by the eastern section of the great Himalayan range, the Frontier tribes from west to east being successively the Bhutias of Bhutan, the Bhutias of Towang—a province subject to Lhasa—Akas, Daflas, Miris, Apa Tanangs, Abors, and Mishmis; on the north-east by the Mishmi Hills which sweep round the head of Brahmaputra Valley; on the east by the mountains which are inhabited by Hkamtis, Singphos, and various Naga tribes, and by the Burmese frontier where it marches with that of the State of Manipur; on the south by the Chin Hills, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the State of Hill Tippera; and on the west by the Bengal districts of Tippera, Mymensingh and Rangpur, the State of Cooch Behar and the Jalpaiguri district. The total area of the Province, including the Native State of Manipur (8,456 square miles), is 61,471 square miles.

Brahmaputra Valley.

2. Assam Proper, or the valley of the Brahmaputra, is an alluvial plain, about 450 miles in length, with an average breadth of about 50 miles, lying almost east and west in its lower portion, but in its upper half trending somewhat to the north-east. To the north is the main chain of the Himalayas, the lower ranges of which rise abruptly from the plain; to the south is the great elevated plateau, or succession of plateaux, known as the Assam Range, much broken at its eastern and western extremities and along its northern face, but in its central portion, from the eastern border of the Garo Hills to the watershed of the Dhansiri, a region of tableland and rolling uplands. The various portions of this range are called by the names of the tribes who inhabit them,—the Garo, the Khasi, the Jaintia, the North Cachar, and the Naga Hills. At several points on the southern side of the valley the hills of the Assam Range abut on the river, and at Goalpara, Gauhati, and Tezpur there are spurs belonging to this group on the north as well as on the south bank. The broadest part of the valley is where the river divides the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, below which the isolated block of the Mikir Hills to the south (a mass of mountains cut off from the main Assam Range by the valleys of the Dhansiri, Langpher, and Jamuna rivers), and the projecting group of the Dafla Hills to the north suddenly contract it. Forty miles lower down, it widens out, but at the lower end of the Nowgong district it is again encroached upon by the Khasi Hills, among the spurs of which the river makes its way in front of the station of Gauhati, and it is almost completely shut in just to the west of that town, below the temple-crowned hill of Nilachal or Kamakhya where the stream is not 1,000 yards broad. Beyond this point the hills recede again, and the mountains do not approach the Brahmaputra until the station of Goalpara, situated on a spur of the Garo Hills, is reached. Here at the confluence of the Manas, and between the rocks of Jogighopa and Pagla Tek, is the "Gate of Assam," to the east of which Assamese is spoken, and to the west Bengali. Beyond this point the valley again widens, and at Dhubri opens out into the great delta of Bengal.

The Brahmaputra and its Affluents.

3. Throughout its course the Brahmaputra receives a vast number of affluents, great and small, from the hills to the north and south. The greater of the northern streams are snow-fed, while those from the south (except the Dihing) depend upon the annual rains for their volume, and shrink to small dimensions in the dry season.

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On the north the chief tributaries of the Brahmaputra are the Dibong, Dihong, Subansiri, Bhareli, Bornadi, and Manas; on the south the greater affluents are the new and old Dihings, the Disang, the Disoi, and the Dhansiri. A short distance below the junction of the last named, a considerable body of water separates itself from the Brahmaputra, and, under the name of the Kallang, goes on a tortuous course through the Nowgong district, rejoining the main stream about ten miles above Gauhati. The Kallang receives, in the Kopili, the whole drainage of the North Cachar and the Jaintia Hills, besides several minor streams from the Khasi Hills. Below Gauhati, the Kulsi and the Jinjiram are the chief southern affluents of the Brahmaputra.

The journey made by Mr. Needham, C.I.E., in 1886, and the exploration accomplished during the Abor Expedition of 1911-12, have left little doubt that the Dihang, which emerges from the Himalayas through the hills inhabited by the Abors, is the same stream as the Tsang-Po. The persistent refusal of the hillmen to admit foreigners into their country rendered it for many years impossible to explore and survey the hundred and twenty miles which intervene between the furthest point north to which we have penetrated from Assam, and Gyala Sindong, the last known station on the great Tibetan river. It is hoped that the survey parties now at work in the Abor Hills will succeed in penetrating to that point, and that the vexed question of the Tsang-Po will be finally decided. The Brahmaputra above Sadiya is far inferior in volume to the Dihong. Its course has been traversed up to the borders of Tibet.

Except at the points already mentioned, where hills impinge upon the Brahmaputra, the river flows between sandy banks, which are subject to constant changes for a breadth of about six miles on either side of the stream. Within this belt there is no permanent cultivation, nor any habitation but temporary huts erected by people who grow mustard on the *char* lands during the cold weather, and an occasional Miri village. Beyond, the level of the alluvium rises, and tillage and population take the place of sandy flats covered with long grass. Little of this is seen from the river, and the traveller up the Brahmaputra receives the impression that the country is a wilderness untenanted by man, except at the few points where, rock giving permanency to the channel, towns and villages have been established along the stream. These points are Dhubri, the capital of the Goalpara district, Goalpara, Gauhati, the capital of Kamrup, Tezpur, the capital of Darrang, Silghat, the port for Nowgong, from which it is distant 32 miles, and Bishnath, in the Darrang district. Between the last named place and Sadiya, close to the point where the river emerges from the hills, a distance of about 200 miles, there is no town or large village on the banks, Golaghat being 20 miles, Jorhat 10, Sibsagar 8, and Dibrugarh 5, away from the cold-weather channel. Proceeding inland from the belt just described, through which the river flows, one finds a country consisting mainly of alluvial flats, much of which is untilled and covered with long grass, and in the eastern portion of the valley with forest, but much also is under cultivation. The most thickly populated parts of the valley are North Kamrup, Jorhat, and Sibsagar; the most thinly Darrang, west of Tezpur, the southern part of Nowgong, Lakhimpur, north of the Brahmaputra, and the forests in the extreme east and south of the latter district. To the peopled belt on either side of the valley succeeds another where population again falls off, and extensive forests and grass savannahs reach to the foot of the hills on the north and south. The Brahmaputra is navigable by large steamers as far as Dibrugarh throughout the year, and by smaller vessels as far as Sadiya. Many of its affluents are also navigable in the rains by steamers, and at all seasons by boats of small burthen.

The Surma Valley.

4. The southern, or Surma, valley, which constitutes the second main division of the province, and comprises the two districts of Cachar and Sylhet, presents many points of contrast with that of the Brahmaputra. It is much smaller in extent, covering only 7,247 square miles, against 24,598 in the latter. This, however, excludes a portion of it which lies south of the Garo Hills and east of the old Brahmaputra, and which, though geographically a part of the Surma Valley, is not included in the Province of Assam, but forms part of the Bengal district of Mymensingh. Its mean elevation above sea-level is much lower, the cold-weather zero of the Surma at Sylhet being only 22·7 feet above the sea, while that of the Brahmaputra at Gauhati is 148·36 feet. The course of the numerous rivers which traverse it is thus exceedingly sluggish, while the stream of the Brahmaputra is swift. While the latter rives hurries rapidly along, through a waste of sandy *chars*, making and unmaking its banks year by year, the rivers of the Surma Valley find their way to the great estuary of the Megna by extremely tortuous channels, the banks of which,

reinforced by the annual deposition of silt, are the highest ground in the alluvial area, and as such are the most populous and best cultivated portions. To the north of the valley stand the steep face of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the plateau of which rises very abruptly from the plains to a height of 4,000 feet, the tableland presenting, when seen from Sylhet, an almost level line. Near the eastern boundary of Sylhet, the plateau recedes into the interior of the hills, and a new barrier, the angular and serrated range of the Barail, or "Great Dyke," takes its place as the northern boundary of the valley. This range gradually increases in height and precipitous character as one proceeds eastwards, and at the eastern extremity of Cachar takes a curve to the north-east, thereafter forming the main axis of the Naga Hills, and eventually merging in the Patkoi. To the east the valley is shut in by the mountains of Manipur, a continuation of the succession of parallel ridges, lying north and south, into which the Arrakan Yoma Range divides as it approaches the Himalayas. On the south also these parallel ridges extend for some distance into the alluvial plain, gradually retreating as the river emerges from Cachar into Sylhet, but still preserving their uniform meridional direction, until the Bengal district of Tippera is reached.

Throughout this great alluvial plain, except in the western portion adjoining Mymensingh, the surface is broken by frequent groups of isolated hills of small height, called *tilas*. These may be regarded as continuations below the alluvium of the southern ranges of Tippera and the Lushai Hills. The most notable are the groups about Chhatak, and north of Sylhet, and the Chiknagul hills in Jaintia. In Cachar, the ridges from the south touch the Surma, or Barak, at Badarpur and at the northern end of the Tilain range, and many isolated hills rise throughout that district, chiefly to the south of the river. Except where the *tilas* and the southern ranges project, the whole valley is a vast deltaic expanse, covered with a perplexing network of sluggish streams, and liable to deep flooding in the rains. The highest ground is on the river banks, from which the surface slopes backward into great hollows, called *haors*, all of which are lakes, some of great extent in the rains, and in the greater of which water lies in some part throughout the cold season. In the deeply-flooded but populous country to the west the villages are built on artificially-raised sites along the river margins, and the ground which is thus obtained is so precious that the houses are crowded together in a manner very unlike the straggling aspect of a village in Assam.

The Surma river.

5. The Surma, or Barak, river rises in the Barail range to the north of Manipur. Its sources are among the southern spurs of the great mountain mass called Japvo, on the northern slopes of which are situated the most powerful villages of the Angami Nagas. Thence its course is south, with a slight westerly bearing, among the Manipur hills, where it receives numerous tributaries before entering British territory. At Tipaimukh, the trijunction point of Manipur, Cachar and the Lushai Hills, it turns sharply to the north, and, after emerging from the Bhuban range near Lakhipur, takes a very tortuous course, with a generally westward direction, through the district. A short distance below Badarpur, on the western boundary of Cachar, it divides into two branches, the northern of which is known as the Surma, and flows westwards, more or less closely under the Khasi Hills, having on its banks the important centres of Sylhet and Chhatak, till it turns southwards at Sunamganj; the southern, called at first the Kusiara, has a south-westerly direction, and near the confluence of the Manu river from the south again divides into two branches, the southern of which re-assumes the original name of the whole river, Barak, and, passing by the towns of Nabiganj and Habiganj, rejoins the Surma a short distance to the west of the latter place. The other arm, called first the Bibiana and afterwards the Kalni, also rejoins the Surma, north of the confluence of the Barak, at Abidabad.

The Hill tracts.

The chief affluents of the Surma on the north, after it enters British territory, are the Jiri and Jatinga from the North Cachar Hills, the Luba, Hari, Piyain, Bogapani, and Jadukata from the Jaintia and Khasi Hills, and the Maheshkali from the Garo Hills. On the south it receives the Sonai, Dhaleswari, and Katakhal from the Lushai Hills, and (in its southern branch, the Kusiara-Barak) the Langai, Juri, Manu, and Khwahi from the Tippera Hills. At Bhairab Bazar, in Mymensingh, 20 miles below the Sylhet frontier at Lakhai, it unites with the old Brahmaputra, and becomes known thenceforward as the Megna. The Surma is navigable by steamers as far as Silchar in the rains; in the cold weather, however, large vessels do not ascend above Chhatak on the northern and Fenchuganj on the southern branch. Boats of considerable burthen traverse the whole river system as far as Banskandi, east of Silchar, throughout the year, and in the rains are the most usual vehicle of traffic.

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The Assam Range.

6. The hilly tracts included in the Province of Assam consist of the Assam Range, which is interposed between the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys, with the Mikir Hills, the Lushai Hills, and the ridges, generally of low elevation, which run northward from Hill Tippera and the Lushai Hills into the Surma Valley. No part of the Himalayas falls within British territory. These hilly tracts have already been summarily described. The remarkable plateau of the Garo-Khasi-North Cachar Hills, which, with the sharply serrated range of the Barail and its spurs, constitutes the Assam Range, is joined at its eastern extremity by the Patkoi to the Himalayan system, and by the mountains of Manipur to the Arrakan Yoma. At its western end, in the Garo Hills, it attains an elevation of more than 4,600 feet in the peak of Nokrek, above Tura, but falls again before the Khasi boundary is reached. The highest points of the Khasi-Jaintia tableland are the Shillong Peak, 6,450 feet, the Dingyei, 6,077, Rableng, 6,283, and Suer, 6,390 ; but these are only the most elevated portions of a plateau, hardly any portion of which falls much below 6,000 feet and which is all inhabited and cultivated. To the east the level again falls, the highest summits not much exceeding 5,000 feet in the Jaintia Hills, and considerably less in the Cachar Hills north of the Barail. The latter range, commencing on the south-east margin of the Khasi-Jaintia plateau, where the Hari river issues from the hills, rises by sudden leaps to a considerable height, and among the hills bordering the Jatinga Valley summits of from 5,000 to 6,000 feet are found. The range then curves north-eastwards, and attains a still greater height, where it forms the boundary between the Naga Hills district and the State of Manipur. Here the greatest elevation (in British territory) is reached by the peak of Japvo, which is a little less than 10,000 feet above the sea. To the north-east of this point the mountain system of the Barail is broken up, by the influence of the meridional axis of elevation prolonged from the Arrakan Yoma, into a mass of ranges having a general north-east and south-west direction until the Patkoi is reached. The highest points in this portion are from 8,000 to 9,000 feet. Snow is frequent on Japvo and in its neighbourhood, but seldom falls further west.* It is also seen to cover the hills lying about the upper course of the Dihing as far as the Patkoi, a country as yet insufficiently explored.

Between the main axis of the Assam Range and the valley of the Brahmaputra the average height of the hills varies considerably. The country is deeply cut into by river channels, and is covered with dense forest. The isolated block of hills already referred to, lying to the east of Nowgong, called the Mikir-Rengma Hills, is cut off from the main range by low-lying valleys, and has within it summits attaining a height of 4,000 feet. Its interior is little known, the population is very sparse, and the country is densely wooded. The hills lying south of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, and peopled for the most part by the tribes of Nagas which have not yet been brought under British administration, consist of small broken ranges, running generally north-east and south-west, or having irregular spurs leading down into the plains, usually steep on the northern side, with a more gradual slope on the south. The greater part of this tract (in which very extensive and valuable seams of coal exist) is uncultivated and forest-clad, the outer ranges being chiefly uninhabited.

On the southern face the Garo and Khasi Hills rise very abruptly from the plains, and present a succession of precipitous faces, into which the rivers, fed by the enormous rainfall of this region, have cut deep gorges as they issue upon the swamps of North Sylhet. The level line forming the horizon of the plateau is not broken until the Barail is reached, where the contour becomes rugged and irregular, though the sides are precipitous. In the Garo Hills, the lower portions of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the Barail range, the slopes are forest-clad. In the upper and central plateau of the Khasi Hills, and the greater portion of North Cachar, the landscape is one of undulating grassy hills, with occasional groves of pine and oak. It is believed that the forests here have been destroyed or kept down by the custom of annually burning, either for pasture or for cultivation, the long grass with which the surface is covered. Where fires are excluded, thick forests of young pine and mixed leafy trees spring up.

The southern hills.

7. The Lushai Hills, which divide Assam from Burma, consist of sandstones and shales of tertiary age thrown into long folds, the axes of which run nearly north and south. From the general character of the deposits, it seems probable that they were laid down in the delta and estuary of an immense river issuing from the Himalayas, to the north-east of Assam during tertiary times, and flowing due south

* There was a snow-storm on the Shillong Peak on January 9th, 1899. Very little moisture is precipitated in Shillong during the winter, but ice frequently forms.

through the country now occupied by the Naga and the Lushai Hills. The hills are for the most part covered with dense bamboo jungle and rank undergrowth, but in the eastern portion, owing probably to a smaller rainfall, open grass-covered slopes are found, with groves of oak and pine interspersed with rhododendrons. These hills are inhabited by the Lushais and cognate tribes, but the population is extremely scanty. The outlying slopes in the Cachar district constitute a great forest reserve, which is now being gradually thrown open to cultivators from the more congested parts of the district; in Sylhet they have been largely opened out for the growth of tea. Till lately, however, they were left to be roamed over by Tipperas and Kukis, whose annual *jhums* were the only cultivation which they supported.

Geological features.

8. The Province of Assam contains within its boundaries, as already mentioned, two great alluvial plains, separated by a central mass of mountains called the Assam Range, and further defined,—the Brahmaputra Valley by the Himalayas on the north, and the Surma Valley by the meridional ranges, the prolongation of the Arrakan Hill system, on the south. To the east of both valleys is the great extension of the mountain system of Northern Burma, which eventually unites with the Himalayas in the Patkoi. The geology of this region, therefore, falls apart into that of the hill tracts, which are denuded, and of the alluvial plains, which are being formed by the same process.

The Himalayas.

9. The Himalayan system, which lies to the north of the Brahmaputra Valley, has on several occasions and at different places been penetrated beyond the Assam frontier by geological observers. In it are found the same characteristic formations as distinguish the sub-Himalayan rocks throughout their whole length from the Indus to the eastern limit of observation. The outermost hills consist of great thicknesses of soft massive sandstones, of Upper Tertiary age and fresh-water origin, the dip of which is towards the interior zone of metamorphic rocks. These are known as the Siwalik series and we have no reason to doubt that they occur continuously all along the base of the Himalayas. As in the original Siwalik area to the west, nests and strings of lignite are frequently found in these rocks, and have given rise to expectations, proved on enquiry to be baseless, that useful coal might be discovered in them. Immediately within these and faulted against them are the ancient sandstones of the Gondwana series, of the same age as the Bengal coal series. They also contain coal but reduced by crushing into such a friable condition and into such thin and discontinuous seams as to be economically useless. These beds have been proved to exist in the Buxa Duars, in Bhutan, in the Aka, Dafla, and Abor Hills. In the Dafla and Abor Hills have also been found a series of volcanic traps inter-bedded with the Gondwana sandstones. There is also reason to believe that marine beds of Permocarboniferous age occur at the base of the Gondwanas in the eastern part of the area. This belief is founded on the occurrence of fossiliferous limestone boulders and pebbles in the river-beds east of Sadiya, whence they are conveyed by boat down the Brahmaputra, and form almost the sole lime-supply of Upper Assam, in the Subansiri gorge and in the Abor Hills.

Beneath the Gondwanas, and probably faulted against them are a much older series of metamorphosed rocks consisting of slates, schists, quartzites and dolomites, assigned to the Daling and Buxa series. These beds in many cases occur beyond the Assam frontier. It is by metamorphic rocks of this type that the Brahmaputra Valley is closed in on the east. In many places, particularly near the Dihong river and in the Aka Hills high level terraces of Pleistocene age form the outermost series of hills.*

The Assam Range.

10. The Assam Range, which divides the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys, is separated by well-marked physical and geological features into two great regions, the boundary between which follows the line of the Dhansiri Valley and the Barail range to the point where the latter commences at the south-eastern corner of the Jaintia Hills. The mountains to the west of this boundary, which include the Garo, the Khasi, the Jaintia, and the Mikir Hills, with so much of North Cachar as lies north and west of Barail, have been described by geologists under the name of the Shillong Plateau. The area to the east of this boundary, including the Barail, the ranges of Manipur, and the Naga Hills, is orographically a part of the Burmese mountain system, and of a widely different geological character.

The Shillong plateau.

11. The Shillong Plateau consists of a great mass of gneiss, bare on the northern border, where it is broken into hills, for the most part low and very irregular in outline, with numerous outliers in the Lower Assam Valley, even close up to the Himalayas. In the central region the gneiss is covered by transition or sub-metamorphic rocks, consisting of a strong band of quartzites overlaying a mass of earthy schists,

See "Records of the Geological Survey of India," Volume XXXI, pages 179-204, and Volume XLII, pages 231-253.

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In the very centre of the range, where a tableland attains its highest elevation, great masses of intrusive diorite and granite occur; and the latter is found, in dykes piercing the gneiss and sub-metamorphic series, throughout the southern half to the boundary of the plains. To the south, in contact with the gneiss and sub-metamorphics, is a great volcanic outburst of trap, which is stratified, and is brought to the surface with the general rise of elevation along the face of the hills between Shella and Thariaghat south of Cherrapunji: this has been described as the "Sylhet trap." South of the main axis of this metamorphic and vulcanic mass, and almost at the edge of the central intrusive dykes of granite and diorite, fossiliferous strata commence belonging to two well-defined series, (1) the Cretaceous, and (2) the Nummulitic. On their northern margin both rest conformably on the metamorphics, and rapidly increase in thickness as one proceeds southwards. On the south the whole series bends downwards in a monoclinal flexure, and south of Cherrapunji disappears below the alluvium of the Surma Valley.

The cretaceous series, where last seen, occupies about 1,500 feet between the Sylhet trap and the Nummulitic limestone; it varies much in the character of the deposits, consisting chiefly of sandstones, locally massive, coarse, earthy, or ochreous, with intervening dark and pale shales and some layers of flaky earthy limestone. The series includes several beds of coal, of which the best known are the Maobehlarkar coal, a few miles south of Mauphlang, which for many years was worked for the supply of the station of Shillong, the extensive and valuable coal-field of Darrangiri, on the Someswari river in the Garo Hills, and some coal close to the level of the plain where the Jadukata river debouches near Laur in Sylhet, another outcrop to the west of the last mentioned, on the Maheshkhali river in the Garo Hills, is very possibly continuous with the latter, and, if so, promises to be of great value. An isolated specimen of the same series is found on the Nambar stream, on the extreme eastern margin of the Shillong Plateau in the Mikir Hills, a few miles east of Borpathar. This cretaceous coal is brown in colour, compact, splintery, with a conchoidal fracture, and contains numerous specks and small nests of fossil resin.

The Nummulitic series, which overlies the cretaceous, varies greatly in thickness in different parts of the range. In the Garo Hills west of the Someswari it is insignicant; in the Khasi Hills it is much more massive. Below Cherrapunji it has a thickness of 900 feet in the Tharia river, consisting of alternating strata of compact limestones and sandstones. It is at the exposure of these rocks on their downward dip from the edge of the plateau that are situated the extensive limestone quarries of the Khasi Hills, whence Eastern Bengal is supplied with lime of the best quality. On the level of the plateau above, the same strata are found, but have undergone extensive denudation owing to the solubility of the limestone rock in water and the enormous rainfall of that region. In the whole of the southern face of these hills are found numerous caves and underground watercourses due to this cause; and on the plateau of Cherrapunji, while the Nummulitic series survives in the rocks on which the Khasi village is built, and in the ridge to the west of the old station the site of the station itself has been swept perfectly clear of it, with the exception of a few rounded hills composed of tumbled fragments of the harder sandstones which alternated with the calcareous beds.

Before the upthrust of the Barail range the Nummulitic beds, like the other members of the series, retire in a north-easterly direction, and their eastern limit has not been traced satisfactorily.

This series also includes coal beds, several of which have been worked. The best known are the Cherra mines, in a seam situated in the Nummulitic mass to the west of the station, and the Lakadong mines in the Jaintia Hills. The Nummulitic coal is black, bright, with a cuboidal fracture, and very bituminous.*

The Barail Range.

12. There is evidence that, as the Nummulitic series overlies the cretaceous, the former was in its turn overlain (perhaps only on its outer margin) by a third, or Upper Tertiary, series. These rocks have been traced from the western margin of the Garo Hills, along their southern face (where, south of the Someswari, the Tertiary zone is 14 miles wide), and beneath the scrap of the Khasi Hills, where they have been almost entirely removed from the plateau by denudation. East of Jaintapur the soft massive greenish sandstones of this formation appear again in force, and they rise rapidly from this point into the Barail range. Not only by their appearance but also by the occurrence in them of vertebrate fossils in the Garo Hills near the Brahmaputra river it is evident that they are essentially a part of the great Upper Tertiary series of river deposits known as the Siwaliks. To this series, apparently belong also the *tilas* of the

* *See* "Memoirs, Geological Survey of India," Volume VII, pages 151-207, and Volume XLI, pages 21-31.

Sylhet and Cachar plain, and the low meridional ranges of the Tippera and the Lushai Hills, which run up into it on the south; and the valley of Cachar seems to be excavated out of the broken ground where these two conflicting strikes, the west-east of the Barail, and the south-north of the southern ridges, meet. West of Cachar, the Barail curves north-eastwards, and the southern ranges take the same direction, till eventually the two lines are found in confluence.

Of this second great division of the Assam range we know something of the north-western face, looking down upon the Sibsagar and Dibrugarh plains, but of the interior very little. A reconnaissance was made in the cold weather of 1881-1882, through the eastern and northern portions of Manipur and another, in 1911, through the district of the Naga Hills, which have given some information regarding the rocks of these regions.

The whole of the western portion of this division of the Assam range, from the rise of the Barail in south-eastern Jaintia to the peak of Japvo in the neighbourhood of Kohima, would appear to be composed of the same Upper Tertiary sandstones, corresponding, as has already been mentioned, to the Siwaliks. The same rocks seem to be continued along the south-eastern margin of the Brahmaputra Valley in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The names of Dihing series and Tipam series have been given to the Upper and Lower subdivisions respectively of these beds.*

Coal-fields and oil of Upper Assam.

13. The north-western face of this region, lying along the Dibrugarh and Sibsagar districts, contains several very important coal-fields, which constitute the chief mineral resource of the province. The coal-measures consist of an alternating series of shale, sandstone and coal with a few calcareous layers and some 2,000 feet thick. Their age is still uncertain. They are beyond doubt newer than the Disang series (probably cretaceous) mentioned below, as they occur without exception to the north-west of a great thrust fault which separates the latter series from the coal-measures and the Tipam sandstones. Equally must we regard them as older than the Tipam series, their north-western contact with which is invariably a thrust plane, while on the south-east they pass gradually up into them. The coal is of superior quality, and not unlike the Nummulitic coal of the Khasi Hills, though quite different from the Cretaceous coal of the same region; but the place of the coal in the series where it occurs in Upper Assam renders it extremely difficult to correlate with the Nummulitic coal of Cherra and Lakadong. On the whole it is most likely that they will prove to be of Middle Tertiary (Miocene) age. Along the Buri Dihing and near the exit from the hills of the Dikhu, Safrai, Jhanzi, and Disoi rivers, the coal-measures are exposed. The greatest of the fields is that of Makum, on the Dihing in Lakhimpur, where there are several seams of which one averages not less than 50 feet in thickness. The total quantity of workable coal has lately been estimated as 90 million tons. Other valuable coal-fields are those of Jaipur and Nazira.†

Not the least interesting feature of these coal-measures is the association with them of petroleum oil springs, of which those of the Makum fields have been worked since 1899, the refinery being at Digboi.

The Inner hills of the Naga and Manipur country.

14. Belonging to an older geological period than the Tipam sandstone or the coal-measures, and separated from both of them by a great thrust-fault, are, as already mentioned, the Disang series. These are a series of hard sandstones, slates, and shales with quartzose beds, supposed to be identical with the Negrais of the Northern Arrakan group of Burma. No fossils supplying any sure evidence of age have as yet been found in these beds, but there is a certain amount of indirect evidence to show that they are Cretaceous. Still further east is a considerable trappian intrusion, consisting of serpentine dykes running north and south, identical in composition with those of Burma. Near Chimi in the Naga Hills a conglomerate containing fragments of serpentine occurs, low down in the Disang series. It is, therefore, likely that the greater part, if not all, of the Disang series was deposited after the intrusion of the serpentine, which may be as old as Trias.‡ The Patkoi and Singpho Hills to the north-east of the Dihing are believed to consist of Upper Tertiary rocks.

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* *See* "Memoirs, Geological Survey of India," Volume XII, Part 2; and "Records, Geological Survey of India," Volume XXXI, pages 179-204.

† *See* "Records, Geological Survey of India," Volume XL, pages 283-319; and "Memoirs, Geological Survey of India," Volume XLI, pages 15-21.

‡ *See* "Memoirs, Geological Survey of India," Volume XIX, Part 4; and "Records, Geological Survey of India," Volume XL, pages 285-288, and Volume XLII, pages 254-263.

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The alluvium.

15. Turning now to the alluvium, the marked difference in the physical geography of the Brahmaputra and the Surma Valleys, both of which belong to the great Indo-Gangetic plain, has already been noticed. The former is at a considerably higher elevation above sea-level than the latter, and the fall is consequently greater. The following are the heights above mean sea-level of the chief points (at the surface of the alluvium) in the Brahmaputra Valley :—

	Feet.
Sadiya	440
Dibrugarh	348
Sibsagar	319
Tezpur	256
Gauhati	163
Goalpara	150
Dhubri	118

The valley has thus, in a distance of about 450 miles, a fall exceeding 300 feet. In the Surma Valley, on the other hand, the following are the heights :—

	Feet.
Silchar	87
Sylhet	48
Chhatak	41

In consequence of this greater fall, the rivers in the Brahmaputra Valley tend to cut away their banks, whilst those in the Surma Valley tend to raise them. The former is, indeed, most correctly described as in great part a gigantic *khadar* or strath, within which the river oscillates to and fro, while the latter is a delta in the process of formation. Nearly the whole of the central portion of the Brahmaputra Valley consists of fine greyish white sand, lightly covered by a layer of clay; this is diversified near the rocks which occasionally impinge upon the river by beds of strong sandy clay, derived from their detritus. Away from the river the alluvium is more consolidated, and clay, due to the decomposition of the sand, predominates. Throughout this surface there are found here and there (as in the southern portions of the Sibsagar district in the plain of Biswanath, and in the ridge of Tezpur) more elevated tracts which seem to represent a more ancient *bhangar*, or older alluvium, the greater part of which has disappeared. Such places, where they have been laid bare by the river, are easily distinguishable, by their closer and heavier texture and by their higher colour, from the shifting grey sands of which the rest of the trough is composed, and are often indicated by a name chosen for their peculiar features (*Ranga-mati* "coloured earth," *Ranga-gora* "coloured bank").

In the Surma Valley the process of deltaic formation (whether because depression of the surface has proceeded *pari passu* with alluvial accretion, or because the deposition of silt is slower and less copious than in the central portion of the Gangetic delta) is less advanced than anywhere else in the great alluvial plain. As already explained, the river banks are almost the only high land (always, of course, excepting the *tilas* and hill ranges) in the valley, and behind them lie great basins, or *haors*, which are deeply covered with water half the year. In the flood season the rivers drain into these *haors*, and there deposit their silt, the water emerging when the river falls perfectly clear. This process results in a very noticeable raising of the level of these basins; the Chatla *haor*, a great depression in South Cachar, which receives the floods of the Barak, is said to have risen nearly two-and-a-half feet between 1872 and 1892; the extensive Hakaluki *hoar* in South Sylhet, which receives the Langai, is likewise steadily diminishing in depth. One remarkable event in the history of Western Sylhet was the diversion of the Brahmaputra, which, till the commencement of the present century, flowed east of Mymensingh, and of the great tract of old raised alluvium called the Madhupur Jungle, into a new course far to the west. Previously to this diversion, which has now brought the Brahmaputra, as a delta-forming agency, into direct competition with the Ganges, the former river threw the greater portion of its lighter silt into *bils* of West Sylhet, and thus co-operated in raising that region. Now the Surma Valley depends for its accretions on the purely rain-fed floods of the minor rivers which traverse it, and which are, of course, far inferior as silt-bearers to the great glacier-fed streams that drain the mighty chain of the Himalayas.*

* *See* "Manual of the Geology of India," Second Edition, pages 439-443; and "Records, Geological Survey of India," Volume XXXI, pages 196-198.

16. The Province of Assam is freely open to moisture-laden winds from the Bay of Bengal and lies beyond the influence of the dry air current which frequently blows down the Gangetic plain into Bengal during periods of hot weather; its climate is therefore notoriously damp. In the cool season dense fogs prevail in low-lying districts and rainfall is of occasional occurrence during the passage of cold weather storms across north-east India. In the spring months frequent thundershowers occur, and in April and May these are supplemented by the melting of the winter snow accumulations in the Himalayas, thus causing a sudden rise of the rivers. About the middle of June the spring rains merge imperceptibly into the rainfall of the south-west monsoon which lasts until October. After this rainfall gradually diminishes to the end of the year. Climate. General remarks.

17. There are in all eight meteorological stations in the province, *viz.*, at Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Tezpur, Gauhati, Dhubri, Shillong, Cherrapunji and Silchar, where systematic observations are regularly taken. Observing Stations.

18. The mean temperature of the plains portion of the province is, for a sub-tropical country, generally low. The following are the latest normals:— Temperature.

Average monthly mean temperature.

Stations.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Whole year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Silchar	65·0	68·0	74·6	78·5	80·7	82·7	83·7	83·1	83·1	80·5	74·2	67·3	76·8
Dhubri	63·1	66·5	74·4	79·1	79·6	81·0	82·1	82·3	81·3	78·8	71·7	64·5	75·4
Sibsagar	59·9	63·0	69·3	73·9	78·5	82·5	83·7	83·3	82·1	77·5	68·8	60·9	73·6
Tezpur	62·3	65·3	72·1	75·5	79·4	82·5	83·5	83·1	82·7	78·6	70·5	63·6	74·9
Dibrugarh	59·9	63·1	68·9	72·4	77·5	80·5	81·3	81·2	80·9	77·0	69·5	61·7	72·8
Gauhati	61·9	64·8	72·3	77·0	79·9	82·7	84·2	83·9	83·3	78·9	71·1	63·3	75·3

It will be seen that Sibsagar, in the upper half of the Assam Valley, has a lower cold weather, and higher rainy season, temperatures than Tezpur, Gauhati and Dhubri in the lower half; and that there is a general coincidence throughout the year between the monthly means for Dhubri and Silchar. These points may probably be taken as typical of the greater portion of the plains of Assam.

19. The wind circulation differs considerably in the two valleys. In the Brahmaputra Valley according to the data of Sibsagar and Dhubri east to north-east winds prevail throughout the year except at the height of the rains. In the Surma Valley, as represented by Silchar, the direction is not so steady, being almost westerly from July to September, from some point between east and south during the period October to April and north-north-easterly in June. Over the western portion of the Assam Range the south-west wind from the Bay of Bengal sweeps with considerable force throughout the spring months; while during the rains the direction changes to south or south-east with an occasional northing. Winds.

Calms are frequent in both valleys during the cold weather and rains.

Storms often occur in the spring months, generally accompanied by high winds and heavy local rainfall. The valleys and hills of the Shillong plateau assist in the formation, and determine the direction, of these disturbances, which are most common in the lower portion of the Assam Valley. Cyclonic storms from the Bay of Bengal occasionally give heavy rainfall to the western portion of the range and the plains at its foot; they most often occur at the close of the rainy season.

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Humidity.

20. The average monthly mean relative humidity of the stations is shown below :—

Average monthly mean relative humidity at 8 hours.

Stations.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Whole year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Silchar	91	86	81	83	85	89	90	91	90	89	87	89	88
Dhubri	92	85	76	80	87	91	91	91	91	89	88	90	88
Sibsagar	98	97	92	91	91	91	92	94	94	96	97	98	94
Tezpur	93	88	81	84	87	90	91	93	91	89	89	93	89
Dibrugarh	96	92	86	89	89	92	93	94	92	89	90	95	91
Gauhati	96	89	79	82	86	88	88	88	88	89	93	97	89

This distribution of humidity resembles that of the Bengal delta, and differs greatly (except, of course, in the rainy season) from the data afforded by stations situated similarly in the Ganges Valley. Taking the year as a whole, the humidity of the climate of Sibsagar is exceeded by that of no other meteorological station in India.

Cloud proportion.

21. The following figures show the recorded averages of cloud proportion (complete overclouding being represented by 10) :—

Average of cloud proportion at 8 hours.

Stations.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Whole year.
1	2	3.	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Silchar	2·4	3·2	3·8	5·5	6·3	7·7	8·0	8·2	7·5	5·2	3·6	2·8	5·4
Dhubri	1·8	2·3	2·3	4·8	6·2	7·8	7·8	7·6	7·0	3·6	1·6	1·1	4·5
Sibsagar	7·1	6·3	5·9	7·3	7·8	8·6	8·8	8·6	8·2	6·9	5·8	5·4	7·2
Tezpur	2·7	3·4	3·3	5·6	6·4	7·6	8·4	8·1	6·9	4·4	2·7	2·0	5·1
Dibrugarh	4·7	5·1	5·6	6·6	6·6	7·9	8·2	8·3	7·2	4·7	3·3	2·7	5·9
Gauhati	6·8	5·2	4·6	5·7	6·7	8·1	8·2	8·0	7·0	5·7	5·6	7·2	6·6

Sibsagar is the most cloudy station in India. This peculiarity is probably due to the regular prevalence of dense fogs (which are counted as cloud in the table) during the cold weather in the Assam Valley, and to the copious spring rainfall. In the Surma Valley fogs are decidedly less prevalent, and less dense when they occur, than in that of the Brahmaputra, and are also less common in the upper part of the valley, where Silchar is situated, than in the western half.

Rainfall.

22. The distribution of rainfall in Assam is that portion of the meteorology of the province about which most information exists, and also that in which it differs most remarkably from other parts of India. Besides the observations taken at district and subdivisional headquarters, the rainfall is as a rule recorded at every tea garden. There are thus abundant materials for the study of the subject. The table below has been constructed to show separately the rainfall of the three seasons into which the year falls apart, in the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys and the intervening hill

region, respectively. The stations chosen are those at which observations have been recorded for the longest time:—

	Autumn rainfall (October and November).	Winter rainfall (December, January and February).	Spring rainfall (March, April and May).	Monsoon rainfall (June, July, August and September).	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Brahmaputra Valley.					
Dhubri	3·97	1·12	22·27	68·74	96·10
Goalpara	4·19	1·21	22·92	62·92	91·24
Gauhati	3·49	1·66	18·63	42·88	66·66
Tezpur	4·22	1·91	17·90	48·51	72·54
Nowgong	3·95	1·58	15·93	56·59	78·05
Sibsagar	6·14	3·64	26·64	59·46	95·88
Dibrugarh	6·02	4·74	28·51	72·90	112·17
Hill Districts.					
Tura	8·33	1·43	25·12	91·63	126·51
Shillong	7·07	1·54	15·99	55·94	80·54
Cherrapunji police station	15·28	2·91	89·03	318·74	425·96
Kohima	5·38	1·95	12·71	55·10	75·14
Surma Valley.					
Sylhet	9·78	1·94	40·49	106·22	158·43
Silchar	8·16	3·38	36·45	74·32	122·31
Manipur and Lushai Hills.					
Manipur	6·32	3·00	14·86	37·64	61·82
Aijal	7·12	2·29	19·00	52·93	81·34

This table exhibits, in a very conspicuous manner, the chief feature of the Assam climate, both in the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys, *viz.*, its copious rainfall between March and May, at a season when throughout northern India generally precipitation is comparatively light. It also indicates the existence, in the Bramaputra Valley, of a middle region (Gauhati, Tezpur, Nowgong), where the spring and monsoon falls are less than at either extremity of the valley. This is probably due to the fact that south of this portion lies the most lofty part of the Shillong plateau, on the southern face of which (at Cherrapunji) and over the central tableland the monsoon currents are drained of their humidity. To the west of this central plateau the valley is open to the winds of the Bengal delta; and to the east the average height of the range falls greatly, admitting the south-west monsoon, by the gorge of the Jatinga Valley, over the low uplands of North Cachar and down the long valley of the Dhansiri, into the great plain of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur.

In the Surma Valley, the copiousness of the spring rainfall is even more conspicuous than in Assam Proper. The recording stations here are, unfortunately, rather close to the southern face of the Assam Range, so that they do not very accurately represent the mean rainfall of this region.

The few stations for which observations have been recorded in the hill region have the character of their rainfall determined very largely by local conditions. Tura, the headquarters station of the Garo Hills, is situated (at an elevation of only 1,323 feet above the sea) on the northern skirts of the range which forms the main axis of the hills, and rises south of the station to a height of 4,652 feet in the peak of Nokrek. It is thus greatly sheltered from the monsoon currents, which expend their moisture upon the ridge at its back. Similarly, Shillong, though only 30 miles distant from Cherra, has the clouds drained of their humidity long before they reach it by the immense precipitation along the southern edge of the plateau and in the central

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tableland, which lies some 1,000 feet above the site of the station. Cherrapunji, on the other hand, is so placed as to exemplify all the conditions needed for a great rainfall. It stands, immediately overlooking the plains, at a height of 4,455 feet, on a small plateau of thick-bedded sandstones, bounded on two sides by 2,000 feet of sheer descent, which close in gorges debouching southwards on Sylhet, which is practically at sea-level. The south-west wind, sweeping over the inundated alluvial tract, blows up these gorges, as well as on the southern face of the general scrap, and, having reached the head of the gorges, ascends vertically. The plateau is thus during the summer months nearly surrounded by ascending currents of saturated air, the dynamic cooling of which is the cause of the enormous precipitation. The annual average varies greatly in different parts of the station, although the whole extent of the plateau is not much more than a couple of square miles. Some of the earlier registers, which were those of rain gauges near the edges of the plateau, show a higher precipitation than those kept in recent years nearer its centre. The fall has varied greatly from year to year: 905 inches were recorded in 1861, and in the month of July of that year 366 inches fell. In 1873 the total fall was only 283 inches.

Kohima is situated on a ridge north of the great mountain mass of Japvo (9,890 feet high), and is thus, like Tura and Shillong, protected from the full force of the monsoon currents.

Effect of climate on health and on crops.

23. These being the general characteristics of the climate of Assam, it will readily be understood that in its effect upon human health and economic conditions, it presents the usual features of a cool, equable, humid, sub-tropical region. *Kala-azar*, malarial fevers, bowel complaints and cholera are the most prevalent forms of sickness. The nature of *kala-azar* was for long a source of conflict amongst medical men, and it was at one time believed to be a malignant type of malaria complicated by the presence of the *dochmius duodenalis* (*ankylostomiasis*), a small worm which has its habitat in the small intestine and causes profound anæmia. It is now known to be due to a parasite in the blood called Leishmania Donovani, a trypanosome. This is chiefly found in the liver, spleen and bone marrow. The heavy mortality from this cause was first noticed in 1882 in certain villages along the northern terai of the Garo Hills, and in 1884 the number of deaths became so great that special relief work was organised. The disease then spread through the Goalpara subdivision, the Kamrup and Nowgong districts and the subdivision of Mangaldai, and made its appearance in Tezpur and Bishnath. The mortality attending its progress has been terrible, and tracts, which before its advent were covered with thickly-peopled and prosperous villages, have been left by it deserted and uncultivated. Whole villages have thus disappeared, and large areas of land have been thrown out of cultivation. Between 1881 and 1891 the population of Kamrup decreased by 1·6 per cent., and during the next ten years by 7·1 per cent., while in the neighbouring district of Nowgong the population declined by more than one-fourth owing to this and other causes. It was impossible to segregate the sick who seldom died in less than three months and sometimes lingered on for a couple of years, and little or nothing could be done to check the terrible progress of the disease. Fortunately, however, it never gained a foot-hold in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, and it is now dying out in Lower and Central Assam.

Malaria lurks chiefly in the broken country forming the skirt of the Assam Range, where the long low valleys are seldom stirred by the strong winds which blow on the southern face. In the open country away from the hills it is seldom severe; and the plains of Sibsagar and Dibrugarh, with the southern portion of Sylhet, are probably throughout the whole of India, outside of the hills, the tracts which are most suited for habitation by Europeans, who generally enjoy excellent health. Notwithstanding the great water surface of Sylhet, and the deep flooding which it undergoes in the rains, it is generally a healthy district, though of recent years the North and South Sylhet subdivisions have been suffering from a peculiarly malignant form of malarial fever which has had a most prejudicial effect upon the health of the people. Cachar, which is more confined by hills, is less healthy. The climate of the hills is healthy or the reverse according to their elevation. The whole of the central plateau of the Shillong Range is very salubrious, and the same is the case with the Naga Hills. The Garo and North Cachar Hills, on the other hand, are low and feverish.

The copiousness of the spring rains, and the steady prevalence of moisture throughout the year, are extremely favourable to the two great crops of the province, rice and tea. The cultivation of the former resembles in its main features that of the same staple throughout Bengal. But in Assam and Sylhet tea yields more largely and can be plucked and manufactured more continuously than in any other part of India.

Famine, or even general scarcity, due to drought, is unknown in the province, though unfavourable distribution of the rainfall may result in short harvests. Losses from inundation are more common, though seldom so general or permanent as to occasion serious distress.

Earthquakes.

24. A full account of the Cachar earthquake of the 10th January 1869 has been published in the "Memoir of the Geological Survey," Volume XIX. Another severe shock occurred in September 1875, which did some damage to houses in Shillong and Gauhati; and Silchar was again visited by an earthquake in October 1882, but all previous seismic disturbances were completely thrown in the shade by the earthquake of June 12th, 1897, which was the most severe and disastrous of which there is any record in Assam, or indeed in India. The station of Shillong was levelled with the ground, nearly all masonry buildings in Gauhati and Sylhet were completely wrecked, and much damage was done in Goalpara, Nowgong and Darrang. Two Europeans and 1,540 natives lost their lives, the majority of the latter being killed by landslips in the hills and by the falling in of river banks in Sylhet. In the plains large tracts of land subsided and were covered with sand and water, and the levels of the country were so affected that the towns of Goalpara and Barpeta became almost uninhabitable during the rains. The total cost incurred on special repairs to public works necessitated by the earthquake has been over 37 lakhs of rupees, but this sum falls short of what is required to restore them to the former condition. To this must be added the damage to private property of which it is difficult to form an estimate.

Chief staples—food-grains.

25. The principal and almost the only food-grain of the plains portion of the province is rice. The production of this staple is carried on generally under the same conditions as in Bengal; but the time of sowing and reaping, and the names given to the several crops, vary much in different parts of the province.

Brahmaputra Valley.

26. Generally speaking, the country on either side of the Brahmaputra falls into four classes. The first is the *chapari*, or land in the immediate neighbourhood of the river, which is heavily flooded during the rains. It is, as a rule, covered with high grass jungle, which has to be cut down and burned before it can be brought under cultivation; but when the floods do not rise too soon, it yields excellent crops of *ahu* (*ashu*, *aus*), or early rice. The seed is sown in March or April and reaped soon after the setting in of the rains from June to August. Behind the *chapari* comes a belt of low-lying land, in which *bao*, a long-stemmed variety of rice, is grown. It is usually sown in April or May and reaped in November and December. *Ahu* is sometimes mixed with *bao*, in the hope of getting a crop before the river rises. The level of the country then gradually rises above the reach of ordinary floods, and *sali*, or transplanted winter rice, becomes the staple crop. The grain is sown in nursery beds, the seedlings are transplanted in June or July, when they are about two months old, and the harvest is reaped in November, December and January. *Sali* is divided into two main varieties, *bor* and *lahi*: the former gives a heavier yield, but ripens later and requires more water than *lahi*, and is therefore usually planted on lower land. Beyond this again comes the submontane tract,—the level of the land here is higher, and the fields are often irrigated from hill streams. The chief crop is *sali*, or a transplanted form of *ahu* known as *kharma*. This land is practically free from all risk of flood, and artificial irrigation renders the harvest practically sure.

Surma Valley.

27. The conditions of the Surma Valley are somewhat different. There is no *chapari*, and the banks of the rivers are the highest and the most fertile part. In the eastern part of Sylhet, the bulk of the land resembles that found in the broad belt of permanent cultivation in Assam, and the staple crops are *sail* and *aus*: the *sail* is transplanted and reaped from the middle of November to the middle of January. The *aus* is a comparatively small crop; it is harvested between May and August. The western portion of Sylhet becomes one great swamp in the rains and is fit only for the cultivation of *aman*, a form of long-stemmed rice; it is sown broadcast from mid-March to mid-May. A fourth kind of rice, called *sail bora* or *boro*, is grown in the large *haors* or basins. It is sown at the end of rains and harvested about May, and gives an exceptionally large yield per acre.

In Cachar, the rice crops resemble those of Sylhet, consisting of the early and late *aus*, harvested between June and September, and the *sail* and *asra*, reaped in November and December.

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Area under crops.

The following table shows the area, in thousands of acres, of the principal crops in the plains districts of the province. Reliable statistics are not available for the permanently-settled portions of Goalpara and Sylhet:—

Districts.	*Sali* and *bao* or *aman*.	*Ahu* or *aus*.	Mustard.	Sugarcane.	Pulse.	Tea.	Other crops.*	Total.	Deduct twice cropped.	Total cultivated area.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Acres, thousands.	Acres, thousands.	Acres, thousands.	Acres, thousands.	Acres, thousands.	Acres, thousands.	Acres, thousands.	Acres, thousands.	Acres, thousands.	Acres, thousands.
Cachar	195	42	10	8	3	60	40	358	40	318
Sylhet	1,737	329	50	7	3	77	409	2,711	148	2,563
Goalpara	221	84	42	1	5	1	86	440	60	380
Kamrup	336	184	65	6	24	3	85	703	105	598
Darrang	187	44	19	3	10	43	43	349	21	328
Nowgong	141	45	51	1	22	12	49	321	32	289
Sibsagar	352	23	31	6	11	85	102	610	28	582
Lakhimpur ...	140	21	10	4	8	74	43	300	12	288
Total ...	3,309	772	278	36	86	355	857	5,792	446	5,346

* Includes land planted with rice seedlings.

Thus, of the total cultivation, 57 per cent. is *sali* and *bao*, 13·3 per cent. *ahu*, 6 per cent. tea, 4·8 per cent. mustard, 1·5 per cent. pulse and 0·6 per cent. sugarcane. In the temporarily-settled areas of Sylhet and Goalpara the rice crop is usually distributed in the following proportions:—

	Sali and bao.	*Ahu.*
Sylhet	64·1	12·1
Goalpara	50·2	19·1

For the Assam Valley the proportion is *sali* and *bao* 50·6 per cent., *ahu* 13·9 per cent. *Ahu* and *bao* are chiefly grown in Lower Assam; in Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur there is not much *ahu* and hardly any *bao*.

Hill districts.

28. In the hill districts, rice holds a less exclusive place among the crops cultivated. There are great differences in different parts of the province in the crops grown and the system of cultivation adopted; these differences are determined partly by the character of the country and partly by the degree of civilisation possessed by the tribe. Among the Khasis the system of agriculture is comparatively elaborate, and carefully adjusted to the productive powers of the soil. In the flatish valleys, with which the central plateau abounds, rice is grown in terraced and well irrigated fields, and such fields are found also on the northern margin of the district wherever the conformation of the surface admits of them. With this exception, however, the rest of their crops are grown on hill sides, the turf and scrub upon which are burned after being previously arranged in beds, and the seed sown in the ashes, which serve as manure. In this way are raised unirrigated rice, potatoes, various kinds of millet [the three principal being *soh-riu* or Job's-tears (*Coix lacrima*), *rai-tru* (*Eleusine coracana*), *rai-shang* (*Paspalum sanguinale*)] and a crop called *sohphlang* (*Flemingia vestita*), a leguminous plant with a red flower, which produces among its roots large numbers of tubers about the size of a pigeon's egg: these are eaten raw by the Khasis.

The crops just described are those of the central plateau; besides these, chiefly on the northern slopes of the hills towards Kamrup and Nowgong, cotton is grown in forest clearings, or *jhums*, where the soil is enriched by burning the felled trees and scrub. On the southern face of the hills, and on the slopes stretching into Sylhet, are produced the crops to which the wealth of the Khasis is so largely due,—oranges, betel-nuts, and pine-apples. The orange and betel-nut trees grow together, in carefully kept and regularly renewed groves, but great damage was done to this cultivation by the earthquake of 1897 and subsequent floods, many of the gardens being covered with sand and the trees destroyed. The pine-apple grows like a weed in this region, and is extraordinarily cheap and abundant. Besides these field crops, every Khasi

village on the plateau has its carefully hedged homestead lands, in which fine crops of potatoes, Indian-corn, vegetables, and pulses are raised, with occasional plots of sugarcane.

No others among the hill races can compete with the Khasis in the value of their staples, or the enlightened character of their agriculture. The Garos to the west, and the Mikirs, Kacharis, and Kukis to the east, cultivate entirely by *jhuming*, clearing the forests with axe and fire, and growing in the space thus secured, among the ashes of the trees and undergrowth, mixed crops of long-stemmed rice, chillies, cotton, millets, and gourds. Some of these tribes are less untidy than others in their mode of tillage, and devote a *jhum* to a single crop, such as rice, cotton, or millet : others mix their crops, which come to maturity at different times during the year. Land thus *jhumed* is nowhere occupied longer than three years, and often less, after which it requires from ten to twenty years to recover its fertility and to become reclothed with forest. All the cotton grown in the province is raised by the hill tribes in this manner, and is remarkable for its short staple and harsh woolly fibre ; indeed it so much resembles wool that it has found a demand in Europe for mixing with wool for the manufacture of carpets.

One exception to this barbarous system of agriculture is found among the Angami Nagas. The powerful villages of this people, which lie about the skirts of the central mass of Japvo, are surrounded by admirably-constructed terraced rice-fields, not, as in the Khasi Hills, cut in the gentle slope of the valleys and embanked with earthen dykes, but built up with stone retaining-walls at different levels and irrigated by means of skilfully-engineered channels, which distribute the water over each step in the series. These remarkable works appear to be peculiar to the group of villages mentioned, their neighbours following the ordinary system of cultivation by *jhum*. They have doubtless been produced by the necessity of the position. Living in constant warfare with one another and with their neighbours and maintaining their supremacy by military force, these ruling villages were formerly compelled to keep their food-supply in the immediate vicinity of their habitations, and thus to make the utmost of the productive powers of the valley bottoms, instead of carrying their tillage over the wide hill-sides in a rotation of many years as is done by hillmen elsewhere. Another reason for their resort to irrigation appears to be that their hills are too densely peopled to admit of *jhum* cultivation, as, although the latter seems to yield a larger outturn for the years during which the cultivation is carried on, the land rapidly becomes exhausted, and, after two or three years' cultivation, requires a long rest before it recovers its fertility ; a tribe cultivating on the *jhum* system thus requires a much greater area of land for its support than one resorting to irrigation.

Average outturn of crops.

29. For a series of years, numerous experiments have been made annually with a view to ascertaining the average outturn of the different crops grown in Assam. The statement below shows the normal outturn, in pounds, per acre, of the principal crops in the different plains districts, as estimated from the results of these experiments :—

Crop.	Cachar.	Sylhet.	Goalpara.	Kamrup.	Darrang.	Nowgong.	Sibsagar.	Lakhimpur.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
WINTER RICE.								
Broadcast	856	894	...	658	675	1,020	665	638
Transplanted	3,183	869	1,521	990	1,298	1,148	882	1,231
Autumn rice (*aus* and *ahu*)	1,044	755	755	648	886	820	690	1,137
Spring rice (*boro*)	...	767	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mustard	502	600	1,020	470	525	480	808	527
Sugarcane (*gur*)	2,033	3,520	1,803	1,659	1,120	2,190	1,971	2,215
Linseed	...	644	...	...	...	...	...	...

The normal yield of winter rice (both broadcast and transplanted taken together) is about 9 cwts. of cleaned grain per acre and that of *aus* about 6 cwts. Mustard gives about 5 cwts. of seed and sugarcane about a ton of raw molasses per acre.

These figures represent only a rough general standard.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Commercial staples—Tea.

30. The most important commercial staple of Assam is tea. The plant is indigenous to the province, being found wild in the forests south of the Dihing, in the Naga Hills to the south of Sibsagar, and in Manipur, North Cachar, and the Lushai Hills. The following paragraphs, extracted from a memorandum written by the late Sir John Edgar in 1873, give in a brief and convenient form a sketch of the growth and progress of the tea industry in this province from its commencement down to that year :—

There have been lively disputes as to the first discoverer of tea in Assam, and the date of its discovery. It is probable that a Mr. C. A. Bruce, who commanded a division of gunboats in Upper Assam during the first Burmese war, brought down from Upper Assam some plants and seed of the indigenous plant in 1826, and he actually received a medal from the English Society of Arts. But his claim to have been the first discoverer of tea was disputed by a Captain Charlton, who asserted that the existence of tea in Assam had been first established by himself in 1832. In 1834, a committee was appointed to enquire into and report on the possibility of introducing the cultivation of tea into India. In 1835, the first attempt was made by Government to establish an experimental plantation in Lakhimpur, but it failed and the plants were afterwards removed to Jaipur, in the Sibsagar district, and a garden established, which was sold to the Assam Company in 1840. This Company, which was formed about 1839, was the first, and is still very much the greatest, concern for the cultivation of tea in Bengal. It was not, however, very prosperous during its early years, and in 1846-47 its shares are said to have been almost unsaleable. Its prospects began to improve about 1852, and in 1859 it was reported officially to have a cultivated area of about 3,967 acres, with an estimated outturn of over 760,000 pounds of tea. Meantime, tea cultivation had been commenced in many other districts. In 1850 a garden was started by Colonel Hannay near Dibrugarh, and in 1853, when Mr. Mills of the Sudder Court visited Assam, he found three private gardens in Sibsagar and six in Lakhimpur. In 1854, the first gardens were started in Darrang and Kamrup. In 1855 indigenous tea was found in Cachar, and the first garden in the district was commenced in the cold season of that year. In the following year (1856) tea was discovered in Sylhet, but no attempt at cultivating it was made for some time after.

It may be said generally that the foundations of the present tea industry were laid between 1856 and 1859. In the latter year the labour difficulty began to be seriously felt in Assam and Cachar ; but, although Colonel Jenkins, Commissioner of Assam, recorded a serious warning, no one else seemed able to foresee the formidable dangers into which the too rapid progress of the industry would bring it. Later still, in 1862-63, officials as well as planters seem to have indulged in visions of fabulous prosperity, which only deepened the gloom of the miserable time that was so soon to come on them. The Land Revenue Administration Report for that year contains extracts from reports from Assam, Cachar, Sylhet, and Darjeeling, written in the most hopeful spirit ; indeed, the two former are written in an exalted tone that contrasts curiously with the usual sobriety of official reports. But even at the time of publication of these reports suspicions had begun to arise about the soundness of this condition of affairs, which was apparently so brilliant. An Act for the regulation of the transport of native labourers emigrating to Assam and Cachar, passed in 1863, was expected to remedy many hideous evils which were discovered to exist in the importation of labourers required to supplement the scanty local supply. But it soon came to light that the condition of these labourers on many gardens in both districts was most deplorable, while the mortality among them was appalling. The evil first fruits of the reckless way in which waste lands have been dealt with, in the belief that Government was fostering tea cultivation thereby, were being gathered in the shape of increasing hostility to Government and its officials, caused by difficulties about surveys, boundaries, title-deeds, and the like, which all had arisen out of the mistaken policy of giving vast tracts of land to any one choosing to ask for them, without enquiry and without precaution of any kind.

In 1865, an Act was passed for the regulation of the relations of employers and imported labourers after the arrival of the latter in the districts of Assam, Sylhet, and Cachar. Here I shall only say that, though at first at least it did little to improve the condition of the labourers, I am convinced that it had not the slightest connection with the temporary collapse of the tea industry which took place in the following year. The cause of the crash of 1866 was the utterly unsound foundation on which the fabric of the tea industry had been based, and not directly the action of Government, as at the time it was the fashion of even usually well-informed persons to assert. At the same time, we should never lose sight of the fact that the industry might never have got into the ruinous state of inflation that it was in previous to 1866, had it not been for the unwise attempts of Government to foster it at the outset by sacrificing the most necessary safeguards in dealing with land. The depression of the industry consequent on the collapse of so many concerns in 1866 was, of course, intensified by the ignorance of the general body of proprietors of tea shares who, as was remarked by me in a paper written in 1867, showed as much folly in their hurry to get out of tea as they had a few years before in their eagerness to undertake the speculation.

This depreciation of tea property continued during the years 1866, 1867, and 1868 ; but about 1869 things began to look brighter. It was seen that people who had worked steadily for years with a view to make gardens that would yield a profit had been rewarded, while much of the property of the collapsed companies had turned out well under careful management. In fact, it was again found out that tea would pay, and ever since it has been steadily progressing in popular estimation, and, as a general rule, in profit to those engaged in it.

There cannot be the slightest doubt that the industry is in an infinitely better and safer position now than it was ten years ago. The existing gardens are, as a general rule, well filled with plants, highly cultivated, and carefully managed. The amount of tea produced per acre, although falling far short of the sanguine expectation of the first days of tea planting, is satisfactory in all the more important districts, while the prices obtained this season show that the average quality must be very good. There is every reason to hope that the labour difficulty is disappearing in Cachar, and, in spite of the complaints from Assam, there are evident signs of improvement in that province.

Tea is now cultivated in all the plains districts of the province, though in Goalpara there are only 707 acres planted. The following figures give the total area under tea in each district, and the quantity (in lbs.) of manufactured tea according to the last returns, those of 1911 :—

	Total area under tea. Acres.	Quantity, in pounds, of manufactured tea (thousands).
Brahmaputra Valley—		
Goalpara	707	270
Kamrup	3,267	854
Darrang	43,352	24,285
Nowgong	12,364	6,019
Sibsagar	84,542	38,646
Lakhimpur	73,946	36,323
Total	218,178	106,397
Surma Valley—		
Cachar	59,518	31,457
Sylhet	76,580	41,199
Total	136,098	72,656
Grand total	354,276	179,053

When the industry was first undertaken, the land which was supposed to be best suited for the plant was hill or undulating ground, such as the spurs of the Khasi Hills in South Kamrup, and the *tilas* of Sylhet and Cachar. Now, however, it has been found in the Surma Valley that, with good drainage, the heaviest crops of tea can be raised from low-lying land, even such as formerly supported rice cultivation. In the Assam Valley, the most suitable soil is considered to be the old alluvium, or *bhángar*, such as is found in the south of the Sibsagar district and in the north of Darrang. This is a rich loam, capable, by reason of its undulating surface, of excellent drainage, and very heavy crops are obtained from such gardens. The average outturn per acre in 1911 was returned as 534 pounds for Sylhet and Cachar and 488 pounds for the Assam Valley.

31. *Prospects of the tea industry.*—Between 1893 and 1898 there was a great extension of tea cultivation, with the result that the industry began to suffer from the congestion that follows over-production. In 1891 there were 241,000 acres under the plant ; in 1901 there were 338,000 acres, and the output had risen from ninety million to one hundred and thirty-four million pounds. This increase in the supply was out of proportion to the expansion of the demand for Assam tea, rapid though this was, and prices, which in 1894 averaged 10 annas 5 pies per pound for the Brahmaputra Valley, and 8 annas 8 pies for the Surma Valley fell in 1900 to 5 annas 9 pies and 4 annas 6 pies respectively. The area under cultivation has now increased to 354,000 acres and the output to one hundred and seventy-nine million pounds. The average price per pound of tea realised on sales in London during the year 1912 was 9·51 pence for the Brahmaputra Valley and 8·15 pence for the Surma Valley. In the Calcutta sales the average prices were 7 annas 11 pies and 6 annas 11·4 pies. The present condition of the industry is decidedly prosperous.

32. Assam has three kinds of domesticated silk worms found in the Brahmaputra Valley. These are the *pat* or mulberry worm (*bombyx textor*), the *muga* or *sum* feeding worm (*antheræa Assamœa*), whose cocoon like that of the *pat* can be reeled, and the castor oil worm or *eri*, (*attacus ricini*) yielding a silk which is never reeled, but spun by hand. The two species, *muga* and *eri*, present a hopeful field of enterprise. They are produced in considerable quantity already and are thoroughly adapted to the climatic conditions of Assam. The *eri* is the more promising of the two, both because it is cheaper and more abundant, and also because, being reared entirely indoors, its cultivation does not entail that troublesome necessity of watching by night and day which is imposed upon the *muga*-breeder during the period that his worms are on the trees. Silk

The *eri* worm (*attacus ricini*) derives both its scientific and its vulgar name from its connection with the castor oil plant, called *eri* in Assamese. It feeds also on the *Kesera* (*heteropanax fragrans*), and there are several other trees such as the *Gulancha* (*Jatropha Curcas*), the *Gomari*, and the common *Bogri* or *Ber* tree (*Zizyphus Jujuba*) on which the worm can thrive in its later stages, if other food is not procurable in sufficient quantity. The *eri* worm is a multivoltine and is reared entirely indoors. It is reared to a greater or less extent in every district of the province. In the submontane country inhabited by the Kacharis and their cognates, along the north of the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang and Lakhimpur, almost every house has its patch of castor oil plant, on which *eri* worms are fed. A good deal of *eri* is also produced in the district of Sibsagar. Throughout the whole range of the southern hills, from the Mikir country to the Garo Hills, *eri* thread is in great request for weaving those striped cloths in which the mountaineers delight.

The scientific name of the *muga* silk worm (*antheræa Assamœa*) denotes its particular connection with Assam. Its Assamese name is said to be derived from the amber colour of the silk, and is frequently used to denote silk in general, the genuine *muga* being distinguished by the title of *Sompatia muga* or silk yielded by the worm that feeds on the *sum* leaf. This is also a multivoltine worm and is commonly said to be only semi-domesticated, because it is reared upon trees in the open air. The *sum* tree furnishes its favourite food, but in Lower Assam it is exclusively bred on the *sualu*. *Muga* is less widely spread than *eri*. Sibsagar is the great *muga*-growing district of the Assam Valley. Next to that come the southern portion of the Mangaldai subdivision and the western part of Kamrup to the south of the Brahmaputra. There is also a considerable amount of *muga* rearing carried on in Lakhimpur, where the *sum* tree grows wild in great profusion, and the more closely peopled *mauzas* of Nowgong also contribute largely to the stock of *muga* in the province. The worm seems to be unknown in Sylhet and Cachar, while the hill districts do not produce trees on which it feeds.

The *pat* worm is a *bombyx*, akin to the silk worm of Europe. Under this name are included two distinct species—the univoltine *bombyx textor*, called the large worm (*bar polu*) and the multivoltine small worm (*saru polu*) of which the scientific name is *bombyx crœsi*. Both kinds are reared indoors on the leaves of the mulberry. The smaller species of *pat* silk worm gives a white silk, which is reeled into a coarser and less valuable thread than that of the larger. The *pat* silk is a much rarer and more valuable article than either *eri* or *muga*. Nothing like a market for *pat* thread or cloth can be said to exist. The breeding of worms is restricted by custom to the Jugi caste, and the industry is hardly known outside the district of Sibsagar, the ancient centre of Ahom rule.

Cotton.

33. Cotton is chiefly grown along the slopes of the central range of hills. The area under cotton is 37,620 acres, of which the Garo Hills contain nearly half. There are seven kinds of cotton grown in the province, *viz.*, *kil* in the Garo Hills, a large and a small variety, *bar* and *saru kapah*, in the Mikir Hills and the adjacent plains country in Nowgong and Golaghat; *khunsa* and *khunma* in the North Cachar Hills, *khonkho shickoa* in the Naga Hills and *lassing anguangba* in Manipur. These seven kinds of cotton are not all distinct varieties, but the names by which the crop is known differ from district to district, and peculiarities of soil, climate and method of cultivation have produced divergences from the original type. Roughly speaking, there are two well-marked varieties, namely, the large-bolled high growing cotton and the small round-bolled species. The former is grown in Nowgong on level ground, has a smaller number of seeds than the other variety, can be ginned more easily and plucked twice a year instead of once, and bears for three seasons. The *kil* of the Garo Hills is very nearly the same, except that the crop is annual, is grown on the hill sides and is not confined to level ground, and can be plucked only once a year. The pods of the *kil* are sometimes as much as eight inches in length and the quality of the lint is harsh and only fit for mixing with wool. The small round-bolled variety is sown annually and can be plucked only once a year. The Jaintia Hills cotton of this variety is said to be the best cotton in the province. Cotton is most generally grown on forest clearings known as *jhums*, except in the few places where it is grown in the plains. The plucking of cotton generally begins about November and is usually over in January. The cotton is sold at Tura and in markets on the borders of the Goalpara and Mymensingh districts, whence it is carried for shipment, either in large flats or in country boats, to Calcutta and Narayanganj. Towards the close of the cold weather the cotton grown in the Mikir Hills is also seen going down the Kopili and Kallang rivers in country boats. The total exports of cotton in 1911-1912 were 81 thousand maunds.

Rubber.

31. One of the most valuable products of Assam is India Rubber which is obtained almost exclusively from *Ficus elastica*. This species occurs in Kamrup, Darrang, Lakhimpur and the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the outturn and revenue derived therefrom being greater in the first two districts, where there are plantations. In Lakhimpur a large number of trees died owing to heavy root tapping in the past and there are now only a few trees surviving. The areas containing this species were worked under the mahal system, and, in order that the few existing trees might not be exterminated owing to the reckless treatment they received at the hands of the tappers in the way of root tapping, it was decided in 1907 to close the mahal for the next ten years in order to give the surviving trees a chance of recovering from the injuries received. The quantity of rubber obtained from the Khasi and Jaintia Hills is insignificant.

The duty on rubber is now levied at Rs. 17 per maund, and this has been raised to Rs. 50 per maund in the case of root rubber, which is easily distinguished from rubber obtained from the other parts of the tree. The practice of tapping the roots of rubber trees is destructive and often kills the trees, and in order to put a stop to this practice, this prohibitive duty was imposed in 1906.

The areas containing *Ficus elastica* are worked under the mahal system in this province. The following statement compares the figures for home and foreign rubber during the last five years :—

	Home. Mds.	Foreign. Mds.
1907-1908	231	798
1908-1909	155	511
1909-1910	423	1,426
1910-1911	232	1,623
1911-1912	103	779

From the above it appears that the home forests yield very little rubber, but passes to cross the Frontier for the purpose of procuring foreign rubber are issued to the mahaldars and therein lies the principal value of the mahals.

Besides the sources mentioned above there are, in the Kamrup and Darrang divisions, Government plantations of *Ficus elastica* which yield a considerable outturn of rubber every year. These plantations were started by the Forest Department in the year 1873 in order to maintain the supply of, and to meet the rising demand for, rubber. A full description as to the methods of planting and tapping followed in these two plantations, the age at which the tapping of the trees commenced, and other particulars will be found in Forest Bulletin No. 4 of of 1906—*Ficus Elastica*—by Mr. E. M. Coventry, Deputy Conservator of Forests. The plantations are worked departmentally, and the rubber obtained is either sold locally to a firm in Calcutta or sent to London for sale through the agency of Calcutta firms. The following figures give the results of working during the last five years :—

Year.	Outturn. lbs.	Revenue. Rs.
1907-1908	12,429	28,480
1908-1909	10,640	28,520
1909-1910	16,615	49,758
1910-1911	12,550	35,513
1911-1912	11,104	26,425

An attempt has recently been made to increase the number of aerial roots of rubber trees in these two plantations. It has been noticed in some instances that the severity of tapping in former times has led to loss of vigour, and the roots sent out are not very strong. It is in heavily tapped areas that these roots are most wanted. The experiment is being continued.

The quantity of rubber exported during the last five years by Government agency has been as follows :—

	lbs.
1907-1908	12,327
1908-1909	10,133
1909-1910	16,206
1910-1911	11,888
1911-1912	11,752

The figures of export for the same years by other agencies are as follows :—

	Mds.
1907-1908	1,029
1908-1909	666
1909-1910	1,849
1910-1911	1,855
1911-1912	882

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Lac.

35. Lac is produced chiefly in Lower Assam, namely, in Goalpara, Kamrup and parts of the Nowgong district. The insect is generally propagated on the *arhar* or *tur* (*cajanus indicus*) and on several species of *ficus*, specially the *pakari* (*ficus cordifolia*), *ahat* (*ficus religiosa*) and *bor* (*ficus altissima*). The cultivators inoculate the trees by fixing on them branches of stick lac wrapped with grass. In the case of *arhar* or *miri mah*, small brood-lac sticks, each six inches to eight inches long, are tied to the stem of each plant with plantain bast. When the young insects cease to emerge, the sticks are removed and the resin is scraped with knives. With the exception of a few maunds of manufactured lac exported now and again, the entire quantity of lac exported from Assam is in the shape of stick or crude lac. The commercial product known as lac dye is nowhere prepared. The dye can, however, be easily extracted from crude or boiled lac and is in everyday use in Assam for dyeing cloths and yarns. The art of manufacturing lac wares seems to be dying out. Sibsagar and Sylhet are the only two districts where the art is still practised. Wooden toys are the only wares ordinarily ornamented with lac, and Sylhet town was once noted for them. The total export of lac in 1911-1912 was 34,469 maunds, of which 32,814 maunds were from the Lower Assam.

Mustard.

36. Mustard is one of the important crops in the west of the Brahmaputra Valley, and is largely grown in the inundated parts of Kamrup and Nowgong. The area under the crop is 281,823 acres, and it covers the largest area after rice and tea. Within recent years a number of steam oil mills have been established within the province, there being a large demand for the cake as manure in tea gardens. But it is instructive to note that in 1911-1912 Assam imported 112,774 maunds of mustard oil and 137,267 maunds of oil cake, though it exported 454,145 maunds of seed.

Jute.

37. Jute is cultivated on a small scale in all the plains districts of the province, as well as in the plains portion of the Garo Hills district, to supply fibre for making ropes and twine for domestic use. The only districts in which it is produced on a considerable scale for export are Sylhet, Goalpara and the Garo Hills, which adjoin the great jute-growing areas of Bengal. In Sylhet and Goalpara the crop is almost entirely confined to the permanently-settled tracts. Elsewhere in the plains jute is grown only in small patches for home consumption. The area sown with jute is estimated at about 100,000 acres. Jute can be grown over a great range of soils, but silted lands are considered especially suitable by the cultivator, as they will usually produce heavy crops with little or no manure. The time of sowing jute varies in different districts, from the middle of February to the end of May. The seed is sown broadcast at the rate of from six to nine pounds per acre. The sowing is carried out crosswise, first from north to south and then from east to west, thus ensuring a fairly even distribution of the seed. In many districts it is the custom to grow jute and *aman* paddy in rotation. The jute is cut between the beginning of July and the middle of August, and the land is immediately ploughed and prepared for the transplantation of paddy. The season for cutting jute extends from about the beginning of July to the middle of September. The export trade in jute in 1911-1912 was only $6\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds, of which $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs were from Lower Assam including the Garo Hills. The trade is still in its infancy, its tendency being to extend eastwards from the direction of the Bengal Frontier.

Potatoes.

38. As a staple crop, potatoes are grown at present only in the Khasi Hills. They are also grown to a small extent in other districts, and there is reason to believe that they could be grown on a much more extensive scale in most districts of the province. *Char* lands, where the soil is a light loam, are eminently suitable for their cultivation. Amongst the Khasis two crops are produced yearly, the first being sown in February and March and harvested in July, and the second put down in August and taken up in November and December. A fair yield under average conditions would be from 90 to 120 maunds per acre; but with liberal manuring and irrigation it would be possible to increase this to 200 or 250 maunds per acre or even more. Large quantities of potatoes are carried down every year to Gauhati for the supply of the Assam Valley, but the main channel of export to Bengal is *viâ* Cherrapunji and Sylhet, whence the potatoes are conveyed by boat and steamer. The export this year was 83,702 maunds.

Oranges.

39. The chief centre of orange cultivation is in the Khasi Hills, in a narrow strip of country along the foot of the hills bordering on the Sylhet district. The plantations commence from the plains, and rise to an elevation of about 1,500 feet above the sea-level. Above these low hills and not far away is the table land of Cherrapunji, which enjoys the unenviable distinction of having the highest rainfall in the world. The gardens extend for some distance into the interior along the deep

valleys which cut up the southern face of the Khasi Hills. Orange trees are common enough in other parts of the district, and are found at Shillong at an elevation of 5,000 feet. The total extent of the country in the Khasi Hills, in which oranges can be profitably grown, may cover an area of about one hundred square miles. It is upon this small area that the greater part of Bengal and Assam depends for its supply of oranges. The orange tree is said to do best on limestone soil. The bulk of the crop is, however, grown on soils derived from siliceous rocks containing very little lime. The Khasias know only one variety of orange called "U sohniamtra." The fruits of some trees have a thick rind. In others, the skin is thinner, and the pulp more succulent. Orange trees are invariably raised from seed in the Khasi Hills. The seed fruits are taken from trees selected for their good quality. They are plucked when fully ripe. After being pressed out of the pulp, the seeds are tested by immersion in water. Those which sink are taken and those which float are thrown away as unsound. The selected seeds are thoroughly washed and dried in the sun for two or three days. December and January are the usual months for sowing the seed. The seedlings are planted out about nine inches apart. Among the insect pests to which the orange tree is liable, the borer is the most destructive. Within recent years a serious blight has appeared among the orange trees on the southern slopes of the Hills. The orange season commences in November, and closes in March. The export trade in the Khasi orange is in the hands of traders who are mostly men of the Sylhet district. The usual wholesale price of oranges varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per "hundred," equivalent to about 2,300 fruits.

Forests.

40. Assam is, physically and climatically, essentially a forest country, and as might be expected from its geographical position in relation to adjacent zones of vegetation, its forests are exceedingly rich botanically. Thus the western part of the Assam Valley merges botanically into the flora of the Upper Gangetic plain and many of its component species penetrate far into Assam. On the other hand, the Indo-Chinese-Malayan types characteristic of the Upper Brahmaputra and of the Surma Valleys also extend westwards into the former, so that the forest flora of the province, as a whole, offers a highly complex study to the forester and botanist. The number of forest species is very large, in Upper Assam exceeding three thousand, less than a third of which have vernacular names.

In the plains portion of the Surma Valley the forests have disappeared under pressure of demand for land both for ordinary and tea cultivation. The reserved forests are therefore located on the surrounding hills and on the low spurs projecting from the main ranges. In the Assam Valley, conditions have been somewhat different, there has been comparatively little demand for land for ordinary cultivation but a relatively large demand for tea cultivation, the forests therefore occur in localities where the spread of tea, for various reasons, had not been considered advantageous or feasible. The distribution of forest growth is, therefore, not the most advantageous from the economic standpoint, but the area is considerable and with the help of the forests situated on the adjacent hills, the Brahmaputra Valley is well provided for as regards its timber supply. There are two main classes of forests in Assam, *viz.*, reserved forests, which have been legally constituted as permanent sources of forest produce, or for other economic reasons, and the unclassed State forests, which include all unoccupied Government waste lands. The position of the former is secure under the protection of the Assam Forest Regulation. In the latter, certain restrictions are imposed by rules under the Regulation in regard to the utilization of forest produce. Briefly, the difference may be said to be as follows:—In reserved forests all acts are prohibited unless specifically permitted, while in the unclassed State forests all acts are permitted unless specifically prohibited.

The unclassed State forests occupy a very large area (18,403 square miles), though a comparatively small proportion is wooded, the extensive savannah lands bordering the Brahmaputra fall within this class of forest. Cultivation is allowed to extend into the waste lands, but steps are now being taken to examine them with a view to the reservation of suitable tracts either as permanent reserves for the production of timber, or as village forests for the provision of the ordinary petty requirements of the people, and as grazing grounds. Pending the result of this investigation, certain portions are excluded from settlement without reference to the Forest Department. A closer association has thus been established between the Agricultural and Forest Departments which is capable of still further development in the interests of the agricultural community.

The forests on the hills are generally of little value chiefly on account of the destructive system of *jhum* cultivation practised by the inhabitants. The most valuable forests are located along the foot of the main ranges in the less accessible

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parts, but these often include large stretches of bamboo growth and grass covered swampy lands which, until recently, had little economic value. The possibility of manufacturing paper pulp from these has, however, recently given them a special interest.

The following compares the distribution of the reserved forests on the 30th June 1901 and 1911, respectively :—

	Reserved Forests.	
	1901. Sq. miles.	1911. Sq. miles.
Cachar	772	949
Sylhet	103	94
Goa'para	721	884
Kamrup	148	261
Darrang	321	336
Nowgong	143	198
Sibsagar	876	1,043
Lakhimpur	340	333
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	51	114
Garo Hills	134	133
Total ...	3,609	4,345

There has thus been a net increase of 736 square miles in the reserved area. The reserves occupy 8·2 per cent. of the total area of the province (excluding Manipur).

The most valuable are the *sál* (*Shorea robusta*) bearing forests of Goalpara, Kamrup, Garo Hills, Nowgong and Darrang. The *sál* is a gregarious tree and its timber is in extensive demand for railway sleepers, ordinary construction and boat building. It reaches its best development in the Garo Hills, but the Garos have been granted vested interests in the land for *jhum* cultivation which preclude the extension of the small reserved area in that district. With the exception of some inaccessible forests in the Garo Hills, practically the whole *sál* area in reserved forests is under working plans. The sylviculture of the *sál* forests presents some difficulties because of the inroads of an evergreen undergrowth, which arrests reproduction, consequent upon successful fire protection. The subject is receiving attention, but observations extending over a lengthy period can alone solve the problem.

Sissu. Cutch.

There are valuable *sissu* (*Dalbergia sissu*) forests in Goalpara, in which there is at present a very large proportion of dead timber, believed to be due to an alteration of level of the sub-soil moisture. Efforts are being made to realize the value of this dead material. Cutch (*Acacia catechu*) occurs along the open river beds in the submontane tract from the western limits of the province to Charduar in Darrang. The manufacture of cutch extract presents difficulties because of the occurrence of the main principle, catechin, in an amorphous state in the Assam cutch timbers. Cutch boiling has, therefore, not been developed as in other cutch-growing countries.

The most important industry dependent on timber is the manufacture of tea chests. There are seven mills in Upper Assam and two in the Surma Valley engaged in this trade. In Upper Assam the principal timber used is *simul* (*Bombax malabaricum*), while *tula* (*Tetrameles nudiflora*) is preferred in the Surma Valley. The total outturn of timber in the rough utilized by these mills probably exceeds one and a half million cubic feet per annum. The more accessible forests have been exhausted and it is therefore necessary to go further afield for present supplies. The cost of extraction has risen and the locally manufactured box has difficulty in competing with the imported article. The Administration has therefore, as a temporary measure, remitted the royalty on tea-box timbers.

The evergreen forests which cover the larger part of the wooded area in the Brahmaputra Valley have hitherto only supplied a spasmodic and uncertain demand. With the exception of dug-outs, there has been practically no export beyond the limits of the province. A company has, however, taken a lease of the Dehing and Jaipur forests in the Lakhimpur district and with the help of modern appliances expects to place Assam timber on distant markets in large quantities. With the exception of *nahor* (*Mesua ferrea*) and *hollong* (*Dipterocarpus pilosus*) which are gregarious, the saleable timbers in these evergreen forests occur as a sprinkling in a matrix of useless kinds, so that their utilization is not easy, moreover the country is difficult and unhealthy. The timber trade in the Surma Valley is highly developed and all the accessible forests have been worked out. The distant forests of Manipur, Lushai Hills and Hill Tippera now supply the bulk of the demand, but in these also overcutting is likely to result. The Manipur Durbar has taken steps to introduce conservative

management and some restrictions have already been imposed in the Lushai Hills. Recent political developments have rendered possible the introduction of conservative management in the North-Eastern Frontier Tract where the bulk of the *simul* supply for tea-box manufacture has been obtained. There are also in this region forests of exceptional value, particularly in the Khampti-Singpho country, and the local officers are co-operating with the Forest Department for their preservation.

There has been a steady development of the revenues from the State forests which is exhibited in the following figures :—

Year.	Receipts. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.	Surplus. Rs.
1901-1902	5,12,963	3,29,113	1,83,850
1911-1912	11,17,569	8,32,158	2,85,411

The increase under receipts has been general from all sources, but the principal feature has been the development of the timber trade in *sál* timber of the Goalpara forests, the revenue of this division having risen from Rs. 96,279 in 1901-1902 to Rs. 2,57,905 in 1911-1912. The construction of the Gauhati extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway not only established a demand for sleepers, but has placed new markets, hitherto untouched, within easy access. Perhaps the most noteworthy incident of the decade ending 1911-1912 has been the increased values of the sales of minor produce which have risen from Rs. 92,872 in 1901-1902 to Rs. 3,72,414 in 1911-1912. The latter represents a third of the gross revenue. The proceeds from elephant mahals and royalties on captures accounted for Rs. 69,822 of this increase, this revenue only having been credited to forests since 1904-1905. A keen demand has arisen for cane, the revenue from which exceeds half a lakh of rupees, having increased five-fold during the decennial period. Expenditure has risen in proportion to the revenues. Consequent upon territorial changes, the forests of Assam and Eastern Bengal came under the Conservator of Forests, Assam, but the charge had to be subdivided, a Second Conservator being sanctioned in 1908. A general revision of establishments took place at the same time involving increased expenditure. In order to open up the forests so as to facilitate working and extraction, liberal expenditure has been made on road work, the amount spent rising from Rs. 12,232 in 1901-1902 to Rs. 43,478 in 1911-1912, the corresponding figures for buildings being Rs. 10,456 and Rs. 50,461, respectively. The forest revenues have, therefore, responded to this liberality of treatment. A tramway has been laid in Goalpara which reached a length of 20 miles at the end of 1911-1912. The total capital outlay at that time amounted to Rs. 1,03,069. The estimated profit on the tramway, compared with the estimated cost of ordinary transport, worked out at 6 per cent. of the capital outlay, but its chief justification lies in the fact that no other means of transport are available and without the tramway the forests could not be exploited.

Elephants.

41. Elephants form an important item of revenue and occur throughout the extensive forests of the Brahmaputra Valley. In the Surma Valley their numbers have been reduced almost to vanishing point. The Khedda Department which held some of the best hunting grounds in the province, was transferred to Burma in 1902-1903 and the whole of the province was then worked on the mahal system. Each district is subdivided into a number of mahals which are sold, usually at auction, for a period of two years, followed by a similar period of rest. Royalty at the rate of Rs. 100 per animal captured is also paid to Government. In 1911-1912 no fewer than 359 elephants were caught in the Assam forests, and considering the slow rate of breeding there can be no doubt that the herds cannot continue to be depleted at this rate without risk of extinction. The subject is engaging the attention of the Administration. Elephants are exported to India and Burma, and the demand has been so great as practically to double their value during the past ten years.

Mines and minerals.

42. In the section dealing with the geology of the province some account has been given of the most important minerals found in Assam, *viz.*, coal and limestone. Iron occurs in the metamorphic and sub-metamorphic rocks of the Shillong plateau in the Khasi Hills and is still worked, but to a very small extent. It is derived from the minute crystals of titaniferous iron ore, which are found in the decomposed granite on the surface of the central dyke of the rock, near the highest portion of the plateau. The iron is of excellent quality, and the industry was formerly one of considerable importance, the metal being exported to the Surma and Brahmaputra Valleys. Large quantities of iron ore used to be extracted from the coal measures in Upper Assam under native rule, and iron abounds in the Mikir Hills. Petroleum springs exist in the Makum fields in Lakhimpur. Gold was once washed in the rivers of Upper Assam, but the industry is not now found to be worth pursuing. Platinum has been found in the sands of the Dihing river and lead and silver have been met with in the Hkamti Hills. Corundum occurs in the Khasi Hills, and kaolin in the Garo and Jaintia Hills and also near the Brahmakund at the eastern end of the Assam Valley. Salt springs are found in the Upper Assam coal area, and in Cachar and Manipur.

Coal. Upper Assam.

43. The mineral of the first economic importance to Assam is the coal which is found on the north-western face of the Eastern Naga Hills. Situated as these fields are near the upper terminus of steam navigation on the Brahmaputra, it had long been recognised that their successful exploitation would effect a revolution in the carrying trade by steamers on that river, which formerly depended on Raniganj for their fuel supply. The existence of coal here has been known since 1825. The question of opening out the fields was reported on by a committee which assembled at Calcutta in 1840 and 1845. The localities were summarily examined by Mr. Medlicott of the Geological Survey in 1865, and in the seasons 1874-75 and 1875-76 Mr. Mallet of the same Survey made a careful inspection of all the coal outcrops from the Tirap to the Desoi river. His report, which contains a detailed description of the several fields, will be found in Volume XII of the Memoirs of the Geological Survey. The coal measures extend along a distance of about 110 miles, but are exposed only where the river valleys have cut into them. Five coal-fields have been described and named by Mr. Mallet, *viz.*, the Makum, Jaipur, Nazira (Dikhu and Safrai), Jhanzi, and Desoi fields. Besides these, in the further extension of the Naga Hills up the Dihing Valley to the frontiers of Burma, there are other known, but not regularly explored, localities where coal occurs. The most important is the Makum field on the Dihing river, where the seams reach an immense thickness. Several desultory attempts had, from time to time, been made to work the coal there, but, owing to difficulties of labour and transport due to the uninhabited character of the country, and the difficult navigation of the Dihing river, no large quantity had, at any time, been brought out until 1881, when the mine was leased to the Assam Railways and Trading Company, and a railway was constructed from the Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh to the coal measures on the Dihing. Since that time the mines have been vigorously worked, and the output of coal has risen steadily. The coal is of good quality and is exclusively used by the steamers navigating the Brahmaputra and by a large number of tea gardens in Assam. Considerable quantities are also exported to Bengal. Provincial figures showing the output of coal are given in the margin.

	Tons.
1908	275,224
1909	305,563
1910	297,094
1911	294,893

A portion of the Dikhu or Nazira field, situated a short distance within the hills south of Sibsagar, whence that river issues, is held on lease by the Assam Company, but, except for the needs of the lessees, has not yet been worked to any extent. A Company, designated the Nazira Coal Company, has, however, lately been formed to work the deposits on the east of Dikhu river. The other outcrops, the Jaipur field in the Dihing, which is very favourably situated for working, and the Jhanzi and Desoi fields, which are less accessible from the plains, have not yet been exploited.

Garo and Khasi Hills.

44. Coal has also been found in the Garo and Khasi and Jaintia Hills. As already noticed, this coal is of two very distinct kinds, the older or cretaceous coal and the newer or tertiary in the nummulitic limestone. The largest deposits are those of the former, *viz.*, the cretaceous coal found in the neighbourhood of and to the east of the Darrangiri field (which has been described in the "Records of the Geological Survey," Volume XV, page 175) and are situated north of the main axis of the Garo Hills, on either side of the gorge through which the Someswari river makes its way to the plains. This field was originally estimated to contain seventy-six million tons of good workable coal, but recent discoveries have proved that there must be at least some three hundred million tons. The coal is reported to be a good hard coal of a high calorific value. A syndicate has taken a prospecting license of this area, and the construction of a railway to Bagmara is in contemplation. It is intended to convey the coal from Darrangiri to Bagmara by a ropeway.

There are two other beds of cretaceous coal known in the Khasi Hills, namely, the Maobehlarkhar field near Maoflang and the Langrin field on the Jadukata river. The former has been worked for several years by the native villagers in a primitive way for the local supply of the Shillong station, which is some twenty miles away. The coal is of excellent quality, similar to that found in the Garo Hills, but the seam extends over a small area only. The Langrin seam extends over an area of some thirty square miles, and being at the foot of the hills is in a very accessible situation. The seam is, however, only some three feet thick. Coal is also found at Longlai and on the Nambor river in the Mikir Hills, but it is poor in quality and would hardly pay to work.

The following coal-fields have been discovered in the south Khasi Hills in the lower tertiary formation lying in the nummulitic limestone :—Cherrapunji, Lakadong, Thangjinath, Lynkerdem, Maolong, and Mustoh. The Maolong field has lately been taken on lease by a Limited Company. It is estimated to contain some fifteen million tons of good workable coal.

The Cherrapunji coal-field has been estimated by Mr. LaTouche (*vide* Records of the Geological Survey, India, Volume XXII, Part 3) to contain 1,300,000 tons. This is the same coal as that found in the Maolong field, but owing to its high elevation (4,560 feet), it is difficult to arrange means of transport from this field. The construction of a ropeway is, however, in contemplation, and the option of taking out a mining lease for this field within the next three years has been granted.

The Lakadong field is situated some way to the east, and has also been surveyed and reported on by Mr. LaTouche (*vide* Records of the Geological Survey, Volume XXIII, Part I, page 14). It is said to contain some 1,164,000 tons, but a considerable outlay would be required in this field also to bring the coal to any large market, the field being 7 miles from the foot of the hills and at an elevation of 2,200 feet above the plains.

Coal-beds have recently been discovered in the vicinity of the Shillong-Gauhati road, eight miles north of Shillong. This coal-field has been surveyed and reported on by Mr. P. N. Bose (*vide* Records of the Geological Survey, India, Volume XXXI, Part I, 1904). At Jarain is a small bed from which the town of Jowai is supplied.

Iron.

45. Iron exists in Assam, as in most other parts of India, in great quantity and in various forms; but the competition of English iron, with the exhaustion of the supplies of fuel which supported the native furnaces, has almost extinguished the indigenous industry in the Khasi Hills. In Sibsagar, where in the days of the Assam Rajas iron-smelting was extensively practised, and the great iron cannon for which Assam was once famous were forged, the art has completely ceased to exist. The Khasi Hills iron, which is still made in small quantities and exported to the sub-montane bazars, is derived from the minute crystals of titaniferous iron ore, which are found in the decomposed granite on the surface of the central dyke of that rock, near the highest portion of the plateau. The decomposed granite is rolled down into a stream, where it is washed to separate the iron-sand, which is collected in wooden troughs, dried, and reduced with charcoal in small furnaces. The quality of the iron is excellent, and it is still sought after to some extent for manufacture into hoes and *daos*; but it cannot be doubted that the industry must soon die out. Its great extension in former times is evidenced by the remains of smelting furnaces which cover the surface for many miles, from the brow of the hill below Cherrapunji as far north as Mylliem and beyond. The slag from these workings supplied a considerable portion of the metal for the cart-road between Cherra and Shillong.

In Upper Assam, clay ironstone occurs in nodules of various sizes, and sometimes in thin beds, interstratified with shales and sandstones, in the coal measures of the Naga Hills; but it is believed that the ore is not in sufficient abundance to afford a supply for a blast furnace on the English principle. The scarcity of limestone required to form a flux would, even if the ore were in greater quantity, probably form an insuperable obstacle to operations on a large scale. Iron ore is also of widespread occurrence in the South Mikir Hills, but no attempt has been made to work the deposits. The company who have the concession of the Makum coal-field have also the monopoly of the iron of that region, but have hitherto made no attempt to work it. The iron ore formerly smelted in Sibsagar was derived both from the clay ironstones in the coal measures (chiefly those of the Nazira field), and from the impure limonite which occurs in great abundance in the Tipam rocks south of the Dhodar Ali. The former was the source most exploited.

Alum.

46. Pyritous shales are also found associated with the coal measures of Upper Assam, and it may perhaps hereafter be found profitable to use them for the manufacture of alum and copperas.

Petroleum.

47. Petroleum is found in the neighbourhood of the coal of Upper Assam. It is a heavy oil, containing a comparatively small proportion of the light illuminating hydro-carbons, but has excellent lubricating qualities, and yields a large proportion of paraffin wax. The earliest experiments in working it were made at Nahor Pung, in the Jaipur field (where they were a failure) and near Makum, where a considerable amount of oil was extracted in 1868. A concession for working petroleum in the Makum field was granted to the Assam Railways and Trading Company in 1882-83, and two similar concessions in the same neighbourhood were granted in 1892—one to the company already mentioned, and the other to a syndicate. The concession in the Makum field expired in 1901, and a lease of an area of four square miles for twenty-five years was then issued to the concessionaires. The three oil-bearing tracts were subsequently acquired by a separate company formed for the purpose, who have constructed large refineries at Digboi, and have started a considerable business in lubricating and illuminating oils, candles, and wax. The output of petroleum amounted to 3,565,163 gallons in 1911.

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Besides the petroleum of Upper Assam, this mineral is also found in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and in Cachar. It occurs on the banks of the Barak, at Masimpur, where the Tilain range crosses the river, and near Badarpur, where the Saraspur hills run up to the stream from the south. It has besides been detected at various places along these ridges, which are part of the prolongation into the Surma Valley of the Arrakan meridional ranges. It has also been found north of the Barak, on the Larang, a small stream issuing from the Barail range north of Kalain, and joining the Surma near Lebharpota. The natural oil springs, which have long been known to exist in the Khasimara Valley, on the southern slope of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, will possibly prove to be of great importance, recent analysis showing that this oil is free from wax and of high lubricating power. Two prospecting licenses for oil have been granted in Cachar.

Salt.

48. Salt-springs are found in conjunction with petroleum in the Upper Assam coal area, at Borhat, Jaipur, and other places. In former times their brine was largely used for conversion into merchantable salt, and to this day a small quantity of salt so made (the brine being boiled down in joints of bamboo) is imported by the Nagas into Jaipur. Salt-springs exist in Cachar, both in the southern ranges (Saraspur and Bhuban hills) and in the Barail. Those in the Hailakandi Valley, in mauzas Bansbari and Chandipur, are the only ones which are now worked, though formerly the industry was more extensive. They are however no longer leased. The brine is not boiled down, the water being disposed of in *gharas* to the people of the neighbouring villages. Several salt-springs are worked in Manipur, where they are highly valued.

Lime.

49. Next in importance to coal in this province are the vast stores of limestone which exist on the southern face of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, where the downward bending strata of the nummulitic rocks have been worked as a lime-supply from a period long anterior to British rule. "Sylhet lime" was a monopoly of the Mogul Governors of Bengal, and, as such, figures in the early *sanads*, *farmans*, and treaties by which the East India Company acquired command over that province. The limestone is found from the exit of the Someswari river in the Garo Hills to that of the Hari river in Jaintia; but it can only be economically worked where special facilities exist for its transport from the quarries to the kiln. The most important of these quarries are those situated on the Jadukata and Punatith rivers, which debouch near Laur in Sylhet; the Dwara quarries to the east of these; the Cheyla or Shella quarries, on the Bogapani; the Maolong, Byrang, Sohbar, and Borpunji quarries, which lie immediately under Cherrapunji; and the Utma quarries, a little to the east on an affluent of the Piyain. Those beyond have rarely been worked, the advantages possessed by the quarries nearer the great limestone marts of Chhatak and Sunamganj enabling the latter to undersell them. Altogether there are thirty-four limestone tracts which are separately treated as quarries in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, one in Sylhet and one in the Garo Hills. The Government is the sole proprietor of all the quarries in the Jaintia and Garo Hills and Sylhet, as well as of four in the Khasi Hills. The remainder (with one exception) are the joint property of the Khasi rulers or communities and the British Government, the latter administering the estates and taking half the profits.

Owing to competition from other sources of supply, the Sylhet lime trade has declined from its former importance, and in 1901, only four quarries (Shella, Sohbar, Byrang, and Maolong) were worked under the permit system, while three (Borpunji, Langrin, and Nongstoin) were leased. The Maostoh quarry, over which Government has no control, was also worked by its proprietors, the remaining twenty-seven quarries being closed. The exports of lime and stone during the last three years have averaged annually over twenty-three lakhs of maunds, while the revenue received by Government varies from three to six thousand rupees per annum.

The stone is quarried chiefly during the dry months, and is either carried to Companyganj, whence it is taken by boat to Chhatak, or rolled down to the river banks and conveyed in small boats when the hill streams are in flood during the rains, over the rapids, which occur before the rivers issue on the plains. Below the rapids it is generally reloaded on larger boats, and carried down to the Surma river, on the banks of which it is burnt into lime during the cold weather. The kilns are of a primitive description, being mere excavations in the river bank, faced and roofed with clay. The fuel used consists of the reeds and grasses of the swampy tract which stretches along the foot of the hills. This industry gives employment to a great number of people, the quarriers being generally Khasis, and the boatmen and lime-burners Bengalis of Sylhet. A certain quantity of limestone is also exported to Calcutta to be burnt there.

Limestone is also extracted in small quantities from the Doigrung, a tributary of the Dhansiri, a few miles south of Golaghat. A description of this formation, which has not yet been systematically worked, will be found in the "Records of the Geological Survey," Volume XVII, page 31. There are also considerable deposits of good limestone on the Deopani, Hariajan, and Jamuna rivers in the Mikir Hills, but they are too inaccessible to repay the cost of extraction.

Gold.

50. The rivers of Assam which have yielded gold are those of the Darrang and Lakhimpur districts north of the Brahmaputra, the Brahmaputra itself in its upper course, the Noa and Buri Dihings, and a small stream called the Jaglo, which rises in the Tipam Hills and falls into the Buri Dihing. In the Sibsagar district the Dhansiri, Desoi, and Jhanzi rivers are said to have been auriferous. Of these streams, the Bhareli in Darrang and the Dikrang and Subansiri in Lakhimpur appear to have formerly given the largest quantities. The gold in these rivers is probably doubly derivative, being washed out of the tertiary sandstones of the sub-Himalayan formations, themselves the result of the denudation of the crystalline rocks in the interior of the chain. The industry was maintained in the time of the Assam Rajas by the peculiar system of taxation which then prevailed, each class of the population being bound to contribute in kind or labour to the State. The *sonwals*, or gold washers, were taxed at four annas' weight, or four rupees' worth, of gold per annum. Since the British occupation of the country, the pursuit of the precious metal has dwindled almost to nothing, and the lease of the gold-washings in North Lakhimpur has of late years been sold for Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 a year. In 1882, a European speculator obtained a monopoly for ten years of the right of seeking gold in the Subansiri and its tributaries, but his operations were not attended with success. In 1894, a syndicate was formed and considerable sums of money were expended on the exploration of the rivers of the Lakhimpur district; but gold was not found anywhere in paying quantities, and no return was obtained on the capital embarked in the venture. A new prospecting license has lately been granted in respect of gold in this river. Traces of gold have also been found at Maoflang and near Laitlongkot in the Khasi Hills.

Platinum.

51. Platinum has been noticed with samples of gold obtained from washings in the Noa Dihing river, and it is possible that, if specially searched for, it might be found in large quantities ("Records of the Geological Survey," Volume XV, page 54).

Manufactures: Tea.

52. Tea is the most important article of manufacture in Assam. The total quantity of tea produced in 1911 is returned as nearly 179 million pounds, of which 103 million pounds were manufactured in the Brahmaputra and 73 million pounds in the Surma Valley. A sketch of the tea industry has been given in paragraphs 30 and 31. There are 10 saw-mills in the province which turn out tea-boxes and scantlings, and there are brick and pipe works at Ledo. A large refinery has been erected near the oil-wells at Digboi, and a trade has been established in petroleum oil and candles, the outturn for the year 1911-1912 being oil 2,372,564 gallons, wax and candles 1,708,221 lbs. or 213,527 gallons.

Native manufactures generally.

53. The native manufactures of Assam are not of great importance, and the peculiar conditions under which they are carried on render it difficult to form an accurate estimate of their progress or decline. The indigenous social organization of the Brahmaputra Valley reflects that imperfect division of labour which marks a primitive community, and handicrafts, which in other parts of India are confined to special castes, are practised as household industries in Assam Proper. This is true to an even greater extent of the hill districts, while the industrial development of the Surma Valley resembles more closely that of the neighbouring districts of Eastern Bengal. The province possesses no large cities where artisans can find scope for employment, and carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights and masons have, for the most part, to be imported from other parts of India and paid at extremely high rates. The list of indigenous Assamese manufactures comprises silk thread and fabrics, cotton fabrics woven mostly from imported thread, brass utensils, oil expressed from the seeds of mustard and *til*, coarse sugar, a few kinds of jewellery, some ornamental articles in ivory, and common domestic pottery and agricultural implements.

Silk.

54. The silk fabrics are the produce chiefly of the Assam Valley. The various kinds of silk have been described in paragraph 32. The white cloth made of *pat* silk is an article of luxury; most respectable families in Upper Assam possess *pat* silk cloths, which are worn at marriages and other festivities, but specimens cannot easily be obtained except on order. The price of the *muga* and *eri* silks has also risen fourfold within the last fifty years; but this circumstance is probably due in part to the influx of money into the province, while it is by no means certain that these silks were at any time more easily procurable than they are now. The earliest mention of them is to be found in Muhammad Kasim's Chronicle of Mir Jumla's invasion of

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Assam in 1662, and it was then observed that the silks, though good, were produced in quantities sufficient only for domestic consumption, which is very much the case at the present time. The *muga* silk, which has a bright yellow colour and a pretty gloss, is used as an article of dress by the wealthier classes in the Assam Valley, and is exported to the southern hills, where it is much sought after by the Garos, Khasis, and other hill tribes. *Muga* thread is also exported to Bengal. *Eri* silk, which is more extensively manufactured than *muga*, is generally worn in the cold months by the peasantry of the Assam Valley. The cloth is of a drab colour, and is often extremely coarse, but always very durable. A superior piece of *eri* cloth is nearly as white as linen, and fine enough to make a travelling dress for a lady. The cloth is purchased in considerable quantities by Bhutia traders, and by the hill tribes to the north and north-east of Sadiya, and is also exported to Bengal. By the Kukis and Mikirs in the lower parts of the central range of Assam, the thread is woven into the striped cloths which form the ordinary dress of all the tribes inhabiting those highlands. It is impossible to give even an approximate estimate of the quantity of *muga* or *eri* produced annually in any part of the province. The value of *eri* thread is Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 per seer; of *muga* thread Rs. 8 to Rs. 12; while good *eri* cloth sells at Re. 1-8 and good *muga* at Rs. 2-4 per square yard. The manufacture of both *muga* and *eri* silk is purely domestic. There are no large filatures, nor is there any system of breeding the worms on an extensive scale. The raiyat breeds silkworms enough to yield him a few chhataks of thread, which he either weaves himself, or disposes of at the village fair. There is no regular trade in silk yarns or fabrics, nor any stated market where they can be bought in large quantities. But a very large proportion of the Assamese raiyats wear silk in place of the cotton cloths used elsewhere in India.

Cotton.

55. The weaving of cotton cloth is very generally practised as a home industry by women in the Assam Valley. Weaving among the Assamese forms part of a girl's education and of a woman's ordinary household duties, and in former times the women generally made their own cloths, and those of the men as well. In recent years there has been a change in the habits of the people in this respect. Cotton fabrics imported from Europe and from other parts of India can be purchased at a moderate price, and these, though less lasting, are much finer in texture than those usually made by the Assamese. Accordingly, among the richer classes, the women have given up weaving for ordinary wear, and confine themselves to the production of cloths delicately and tastefully ornamented with borders and patterns of silk, or gold or silver thread. These are made for private use only, and cannot be purchased. The poorer classes still, to a large extent, weave their own coarse clothing. In the Surma Valley weaving was never a household industry, but was confined to the Tantis and Jugis (or Naths), professional weaving castes. In both valleys the thread used is almost all imported, and cotton-spinning has practically become a lost art. The hill tribes, however, spin their own cotton. Among them weaving occupies much the same position as in the Assam Valley, and the cloths they make exhibit great variety of pattern, being often gaily coloured with native dyes.

Brass.

56. Brass utensils are made by the Morias, a low Muhammadan caste found chiefly in the districts of Sibsagar and Nowgong. These are of the rudest kind, without any attempt at finish or ornamentation. A style of vessels somewhat superior to these is made at Gauhati and at Sarthibari in Kamrup.

Oil and sugar.

57. The manufacture of mustard oil is of modern introduction. The mill used is the ordinary bullock-mill of Upper India, and is gradually supplanting the domestic oil press, which consists simply of a short beam loaded with a heavy stone. Of late mills propelled by steam have been started in Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Nowgong, and the manufacture of mustard oil is on the increase, the figures of imports and exports of oil during the year being 112,774 maunds and 2,276 maunds, respectively. Of recent years there has been a considerable extension of sugarcane cultivation with a corresponding fall in the price of *gur* or jaggery, which is generally produced by the most primitive methods. A beginning has, however, been made in the introduction of improved iron sugar mills.

Jewellery.

58. The most artistic jewellery produced in Assam is the gold filigree work made at Barpeta and the enamelled ear-rings and lockets of Jorhat. The Khasi bracelets, necklets, and ear-rings in gold and silver are handsome ornaments, though somewhat heavy in design; and the Manipuri jewellery of similar patterns is imitated in Sylhet.

Sylhet manufactures.

59. The district of Sylhet is noted for its ivory mats and fans, and the manufacture of shell bracelets gives employment to a large number of artificers in the town of Sylhet. These bracelets are cut out as solid rings from large white conch-shells obtained from many places on the sea coast in and near India. They are of graceful

appearance, and command a ready sale. In pargana Patharia, in this district, there is a considerable manufacture of *agar attar*, a perfume distilled from the resinous sap of the *agar* tree (*Aquilaria agallocha*). This perfume is much esteemed by Oriental nations, and is exported, *vid* Calcutta, to Turkey and Arabia. Ironwork inlaid with brass, *talwars* and *daos*, and such like articles, are manufactured in Rajnagar and Lashkarpur in Sylhet. Boat-building is also carried on to a considerable extent in that district.

Boats.

60. The boat-making of Barpeta ought, perhaps, to be mentioned in a catalogue of provincial industries. The roughly-hollowed logs are floated across from the Garo Hills, and, after being further excavated till the thickness of the outer skin is reduced to about an inch and a quarter, they are subjected to a steaming process in the boat-builder's hands, being smeared with liquid mud and inverted over a line of burning embers. While thus softened, the future boat is widened by the insertion of thwarts. If, as usually happens, it splits in the process, the rent is patched with a piece of wood fastened in by clamps holding its bevelled edges to those of the aperture. In this way boats sixty feet long by six or seven feet in breadth are constructed, capable of lasting, if the wood be good forest timber, for ten years or even longer. The same process is followed elsewhere in the valley where boats are made. A considerable number of boats are also built in the Surma Valley.

61. The trade of Assam is carried on in two different directions: first, the internal and external trade by rail and river, and, secondly, the trade with the Foreign States and tribes which surround British territory on the north and east.

For the purpose of recording the trade by rail and river, the province has been divided into three blocks, *viz.*, the Upper Assam, Lower Assam and Surma Valley. Records of the trade by rail and steamer between the three blocks and with other provinces are prepared in the Railway Audit offices and the Steamship Companies from the invoices of goods despatched. Similarly, the registering stations at Dhubri on the *Brahmaputra* and Bhairab Bazar on the *Meghna* record all trade that enters or leaves the Brahmaputra and the Surma Valley by country boat. The trade carried by steamer and country boats between Calcutta and Assam is registered separately.

Almost the whole of the external trade of Assam is with Bengal; chiefly with Calcutta where it sends about 60 per cent. of its exports and whence it receives 70 per cent. of its imports. The great bulk of the goods is still carried by waterways, though the traffic of the Assam-Bengal Railway is increasing year by year. River-borne trade of the Assam Valley goes chiefly by steamer; but in the Surma Valley, and especially in Sylhet, country boats are largely employed.

Trans-frontier trade by land is carried on with Bhutan, the Towang and Charduar Bhutias, Aka and Dafla tribes, Abor, Mishmi, Naga and Khamti tribes. Statistics are collected by special agency, *viz.*, paid Registrars, the local Police and Mauzadars, on the channels of communication or by the collection of statistics at the various fairs or marts in the frontier districts to which the neighbouring tribesmen resort. Traffic in forest produce is registered by the local forest offices. The trade is largely carried on by barter. The principal imports arer ubber, wax, ponies, blankets and musk; the exports, cotton cloth and yarn, silk and metals.

There is very little road traffic between Assam and Bengal and the only commodities, which are occasionally brought into the province by road from the adjoining Bengal districts, are cattle, ponies and other live-stock.

Trading classes.

62. The classes who conduct the trade of the province are different in the two valleys. In both, tea, the great export of Assam, is consigned straight from the gardens where it is produced to Calcutta, either to be sold there or shipped to England for sale. A small but increasing proportion of the tea crop of the Surma Valley is exported from Chittagong, where it is conveyed by the Assam-Bengal Railway. A considerable share of the export trade in mustard from the Assam Valley is in the hands of a class of traders who are natives of the Kamrup district, but almost all the rest of the export traffic, and nearly the whole of the import traffic, of the valley is carried on by Marwari traders, commonly called Kaiyas. Besides these, there are a few Muhammadan merchants from Dacca, who have settlements in the chief centres; but their transactions are small compared with those of the Kaiyas. It is very remarkable to notice the complete mastery of the internal commerce of the valley which these strangers possess. The Marwari is found, keen to buy and sell, wherever money is to be made; he settles himself not only in the populous villages of the inhabited region, but in the midst of the jungle, on the paths leading to the mountains from which the wild tribes come; and it is exclusively with him that these visitors do business.

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In the Surma Valley the conditions are different. Here there are comparatively few Marwaris, though they are not altogether absent. The native population contains a large trading element, and merchants from Dacca are more numerous than in Assam.

In the hill districts there are considerable differences in the extent to which the tribesmen engage in trade. In most of these tracts, traffic is a necessary of life, the hills not producing sufficient food for the people to live upon; but in most also it takes the simple form of barter, the exports consisting chiefly of cotton, wax, ivory and forest produce, and the imports of rice, salt, dried fish, and cloths. But in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills there is a much more active commerce. The valuable staples of this tract have already been mentioned, and the trade in them is kept by the people almost entirely in their own hands. Many of them are adventurous merchants, travelling as far as Dacca, or even Calcutta, during the cold season. In the Naga Hills, too, the Angami Nagas, who occupy the central region, though producing nothing of commercial importance themselves, do a thriving business as carriers between Manipur and Assam, and spend much money in the market of the plains in the purchase of articles of use or luxury for themselves.

63. All over the province there are weekly *hâts*, or markets, on stated days, where buyers and sellers meet, and most of the business is done. Except at a few places there are no permanent *bazars*. During the cold weather, fairs are held along the foot of the hills which mark the frontier, and to these the hillmen come down with their produce. The most important permanent centres of commerce are Goalpara, Barpeta, Rangia, Gauhati, Tezpur, Nowgong, Bishnath, Golaghat, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh and Sadiya in the Assam Valley; and Habiganj, Ajmiriganj, Sunamganj, Chhatak, Balaganj, Sylhet and Silchar in the Surma Valley. The cold weather fairs for frontier trade are held at Udalguri, Kherkheria and Daimara in the Darrang district for the Bhutias; and at Sadiya in the Lakhimpur district for the Abors, Mishmis, Khamtis and Singphos. Besides these places, the Bhutias resort largely to various marts in North Kamrup, the Akas and Daflas to Tezpur, the Daflas and Miris to Lakhimpur, and the southern Nagas to Jaipur and Golaghat. In the Surma Valley, Barkhola is the chief mart for North Cachar, Jaintiapur for the Jaintia Hills, and Lakhat, Bholaganj and several other smaller markets to the east for the Khasi Hills. The Manipur trade is chiefly carried on at Lakhipur, and that with Hill Tippera down the rivers which emerge from that country into Sylhet.

POLITICAL.

SECTION 2.—Historical Summary.

Introductory.

64. The different portions of territory included in the province of Assam were formerly quite distinct, and have different histories. They were brought under British Administration at different times and in different ways, and it is, therefore, necessary to treat them separately before proceeding to describe the present organization of the province. This section accordingly gives separately the history of the following areas:—

I. Assam Proper, that is, the five districts of Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur.
II. Goalpara, including the Eastern Duars.
III. Cachar.
IV. Sylhet, including Jaintia.
V. The hill districts, *viz.*,—
(1) The Garo Hills.
(2) The Khasi ,,
(3) North Cachar.
(4) The Naga Hills.
(5) The Lushai Hills.

Assam Proper—The ancient Kamarupa.

65. The history of so much of the valley of the Brahmaputra as belongs to the modern province of Assam may be said to begin with the growth of the Koch power upon its western frontier, and the invasion of the Ahoms in the east. From such hints and glimpses of the country as can be gathered from the *Tantras* and *Purans*, and other ancient writings, it appears certain that, while the bulk of the inhabitants have always been of non-Aryan origin, the colonisation or conquest of parts of the valley by Aryan settlers began at an early date. Krishna is said to have carried away his bride Rukmini from her father Bhismaka, king of Kundilya, the name of whose kingdom survives in the Kundil river to the east of Sadiya, while the memory of the monarch is still preserved in Upper Assam. Krishna's son, Aniruddha, captured Sonitpur, now called Tezpur, the capital of Raja Ban, and carried off his

daughter Usha.* Still more famous than Raja Ban was his contemporary, Narak, who ruled in Gauhati, and is famed in Hindu mythology as the guardian of Kamakhya and the conqueror of Ghatak, the king of the Kirats. He is said to have been the son of the earth by Vishnu, and for a long time enjoyed the favour of his celestial progenitor. But success turned his head, and his pride and waywardness at length gave such offence to Vishnu, that he was slain by him in the incarnation of Krishna. His son Bhogdatta is renowned for his zeal in propagating the Hindu religion, and is said to have given his daughter in marriage to Duryodhana, and to have fallen in the battle of Kurukshetra, fighting on the Kauravas' side. Later on, we find a king of Kamarupa sending a present of elephants to the hero of that *Raghuvansa*, and again when Hiouen Thsang visited India, Kamarupa is mentioned as a country famous for these animals. Kamarupa is described in the *Jogini Tantra* as extending from the Karatuya to the eastern boundary of the Brahmaputra Valley.† Its ancient divisions were Kampith, from the Karatuya to the Sankosh, Ratnapith, from the Sankosh to the Rupohi in the present district of Kamrup, Suvarnapith, from the Rupohi to the Bhoroli, and Saumarpith, from the latter river to the eastern end of the valley. The name Kamarupa, however, varied greatly in its territorial signification from time to time. Between these legendary notices of Assam and the beginnings of what may be called history, a gap of about a thousand years intervenes; but the Hindu religion would seem to have existed uninterruptedly during this interval at various points in the valley, whether professed by pure Aryans, or, as is more likely, by communities of mixed descent, or by converted non-Aryan tribes. A Sudra king, named Debeswar, reigned in Gauhati, a place which the proximity of the sacred hill Nilachal has always rendered notable. The temple of Kamakhya on its summit is of comparatively modern origin, but rests on foundations reputed to be as old as the first introduction of the Hindu religion into the valley of the Brahmaputra. In Tezpur we find Raja Nagasankar, who built the temple of Biswanath and whose descendant, Jongal Balahu, was defeated in battle by the Kachari Raja, near Roha on the Kapili.‡

When Hiouen Thsang visited the country in 640A.D., a prince named Kumar Bhaskara Barman was on the throne. The people are described as being of small stature, with dark yellow complexions. They were fierce in appearance, but upright and studious. Hinduism was the State religion, and the number of Buddhists was very small. The soil was deep and fertile, and the towns were surrounded by moats with water brought from rivers or banked-up lakes.§

66. Subsequently, we read of Pal rulers in Assam. It is supposed that these kings were Buddhists, and belonged to the Pal dynasty of Bengal. The latter supposition is strengthened by the recent discovery at Benares of a copper plate, on which is inscribed a deed of gift of some land in the neighbourhood of Pragjyotisha (Gauhati) by Kumara Pal, son of Rama Pal and grandson of Vigraha Pal, the names of the two latter being the same as those of two of the later kings of the Bengal line of Pals.‖ The fact that Deva Pal (who ruled from about 895 to 915A.D.) conquered Kamarupa¶ furnishes another reason for supposing that the Assam Pals were a branch of the royal family ruling in Bengal, even if they were not lineal descendants of that dynasty. It should, however, be noted that "Pal" was not an uncommon title at the period under discussion. It was the designation of many of the Baro Bhuiyas, and was also borne by an Aryan dynasty reigning over Kundilya, or the country about Sadiya. **Pal rulers.**

67. After the fall of the Pal dynasty, the Khyen tribe under Niladhwaj rose to power, and thus became worthy of the attention of the Brahmans.** Niladhwaj became a Hindu, and ordered that his caste should thenceforth be known as "High Sudra." He was succeeded by his son Chakradhwaj, who was followed by Nilambar, the last king of this line. Nilambar quarrelled with his councillor, a Brahman named Suchi Patra, and the latter fled to the Nawab of Gaur, and persuaded him to invade the country. The result was Husan Shah's invasion, and the fall of the capital, Kamatapur, in 1498A.D.†† The remains of this old city are still traceable, near the Dharla, in the State of Koch Bihar.‡‡ **Khyen dynasty.**

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* The adventures of Krishna and the life of Narak are described in Chapters 36-42 of the *Kalika Puran*, and on page 81 of the *Jogini Tantra*. *Raghuvansa*, IV—81.

† *Jogini Tantra*, page 76.

‡ Gunabhiram's *Asám Buranji*, page 48.

§ Beal's "Buddhist Records of the Western World," Volume II, page 196.

‖ This copper plate, which bears a date equivalent to 1105A.D., was deciphered by Professor Venis of the Government Sanskrit College at Benares.

¶ "Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal," 1878, page 407.

** Gunabhiram's *Asam Buranji*, pages 52-54.

†† The Musalman accounts of the fall of Kamatapur have been reproduced by Blochmann in the "Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal" for 1872, pages 79 and 336, and 1874, page 281.

‡‡ The ruins are described by Buchanan Hamilton, whose account is reproduced in Dr. Hunter's "Statistical Account of Koch Bihar," page 362.

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Baro Bhuiyas.

68. Although the whole of Kamarûpa appears from time to time to have been united into one kingdom under some unusually powerful monarch, it was more often split up into numerous petty States, each of which, under its own chief, was practically independent of the rest, and this was once more the condition of the country after the defeat of Nilambar. About this time, two brothers, Chandan and Madan, ruled for a few years at Maralavas, some miles north of Kamatapur,* and the twelve chiefs, known as the Baro Bhuiyas, were exercising sovereign rights in Kamrup and Goalpara.

The settlement of the Bhuiyas in Assam is detailed in the *Guru Charitra*, in which work it is said that they were introduced by a king named Durlabh Narayan, who appears to have held sway in Goalpara and Kamrup, but whose lineage is still uncertain. This king engaged in war with a Hindu prince, who called himself Gaureswar, or "the ruler of Gaur." Durlabh was victorious, and on the conclusion of hostilities obtained seven families of Brahmans and seven of Kayasthas under twelve acknowledged heads, the chief of whom was a Kayastha, named Chandibar *alias* Debidas. These people were settled by Durlabh Narayan in the country between Hajo and the Bornadi, and soon became powerful feudatories. The date assigned to their advent in Assam corresponds to the year 1220 A.D. Their leader Chandibar was the lineal ancestor of the celebrated Assamese religious reformer Sankar Deb.†

The Ahoms.

69. Nearly three centuries before the fall of Kamatapur, an event occurred at the eastern extremity of the valley, which was destined to change the whole course of Assam history.‡ This was the invasion of the Ahoms. The Ahoms were Shans, from the ancient Shan kingdom of Pong, whose capital, Mogaung, still exists in the upper portion of the valley of the Irrawaddy. A quarrel as to the right of succession to the throne is said to have been the cause of the secession of Chukapha, one of the rival claimants, who, after wandering about the country between the Irrawaddy and the Patkoi mountains for some years, at length crossed the range and entered Assam with a small following. This was in the year 1228A.D. The Ahoms found the country into which they descended peopled by small settlements of Morans and Borahis, people of the Bodo race, whom they had no difficulty in subduing. There was, however, a Chutia kingdom of considerable power in the background, which had absorbed the ancient Pal dynasty of Sadiya, and in so doing had adopted the Hindu religion, and imported an Aryan strain into the royal blood by the marriage of the Pal king's daughter with the Chutia prince who succeeded him. The Chutia dynasty at that time reigned at Sadiya and at Rangpur in the Sibsagar district, but their dominions did not extend uninterruptedly between the two places, nor did they reach very far back towards the southern hills, and the Ahoms consequently had room in which to develop themselves, for a considerable time, before coming into collision with the actual possessors of Upper Assam. Within the narrow limits of a territory corresponding to the south-eastern portion of Lakhimpur and part of the Sibsagar district, the Ahom kings succeeded each other with great regularity, governing through the means of their chief officers of State, whose names and the dates of whose appointments are duly chronicled in the native histories of Assam, together with the names of the kings and their dates of accession. We read that in 1350 A.D. the Chutia king invited his Ahom neighbour to a boat race on the Safrai river, and there treacherously captured and murdered him; but the final struggle between Ahom and Chutia for the supremacy of Upper Assam did not take place until a century and a half later. Meanwhile, the Ahoms, extending their power along the south bank of the Brahmaputra, drove the Kacharis back to the Kapili and Dhansiri Valleys, and thus touched the Koch power on the west, as they touched the Chutia power on the north-east. The three powers among which the contest for the Assam Valley lay were the Koch, the Ahom, and the Chutia.

The Koch kings.

70. We have seen that, after the fall of Nilambar, the eastern portion of Kamarupa was split up into numerous petty States, each of which was ruled by its own chief. Amongst these, the Koch kings rapidly forced their way to the front.§ The legend runs that Hajo Koch had two daughters, Hira and Jira, whom he married

* Hunter's "Statistical Account of Koch Bihar," page 407.

† This seems too early. Chandibar was Sankar Deb's great-great-grandfather, and we have every reason of believing that the tradition that Sankar Deb was born in 1440 A.D. is approximately correct. Allowing twenty-five years to a generation, it would seem that Chandibar could not well have come to Assam before 1300 A.D. at the earliest.

‡ The above account of the Ahoms is taken from Kasinath Tamuli Phukan's *Asam Buranji*, which was compiled about 1840A.D. under the orders of Raja Purandar Singh. The Ahoms appear to have possessed the historical faculty to a very considerable extent, and many of their leading families maintained chronicles of important events. Our information regarding Ahom history would have been much fuller than it is but for an act of literary iconoclasm in the reign of Rajeswar Singh (1751-1768), when many of these family histories were destroyed, owing to some remarks adverse to the Prime Minister having been made in a history produced by Numali Bar Phukan.

§ The story as related here follows the *Bangsabali* of Raja Lakshmi Narayan Kuar of Howli Mohanpur. This *Bangsabali* is inscribed on oblong strips of *Sachi* bark, each strip being illustrated. It is supposed to have been written under the orders of Raja Sumudra Narayan about 1803A.D. This version differs in some respects from accounts given elsewhere, but seems, on the whole, to be the most trustworthy narrative available.

to Haria Mandal, a Mech. Hira was an incarnation of Bhagavati, and was visited by Siva in the guise of Haria Mandal. The offspring of this intercourse was a son, Bisu, who consolidated the power of his tribe, and defeated the Baro Bhuiyas, who had become powerful during the reign of Nilambar. He became a Hindu, taking the name of Biswa Singh, and imported Baidik Brahmans from Sylhet in the place of the Kalitas, who were previously the priests of his tribe. He made an abortive attempt to invade the country of the Ahoms, but was more successful in the internal management of his kingdom. He settled the different offices of State, and established his army on a secure basis. During his reign, the Ahoms attacked the Chutias, and, after several campaigns of varied fortune, defeated and slew the Chutia king, seized his capital, and overthrew the Chutia dominion in Upper Assam for ever. His son, Nar Narayan, succeeded him about 1528 A.D., and at once commenced a series of expeditions against the neighbouring powers. He defeated the Ahoms, and made them tributary to him. His brother Sukladhwaj, *a'ias* Silarai, subsequently conquered the kings of Hiramba (Cachar), Jaintia and Sylhet, but was defeated and made prisoner by the Musalman ruler of Gaur. Silarai's son, Raghu, was adopted by Nar Narayan as his successor. Then Silarai died, and Nar Narayan begat a son of his own, named Lakshmi, whereupon Raghu, fearing that he would lose the succession, broke out in rebellion. The armies met, but a peace was concluded without bloodshed. The kingdom was divided into two parts, Raghu taking the portion east of the Sankosh, while the part west of that river was reserved for Nar Narayan's son Lakshmi. This division of the kingdom took place about 1581A.D.

Raghu was succeeded by his son Parikshit, who fought with and defeated Lakshmi. The latter then invoked the aid of the Emperor of Delhi, by whose troops the former was in his turn defeated and made prisoner. His brother, Balit Narayan, fled to the Ahom Raja, Swarga Narayan, who sent an army against the Musalmans, and drove them across the Karatuya. From that time, the independent rule of the Koch kings ceased. Balit Narayan became a tributary of the Ahoms, and the western branch succumbed to the Musalmans.

71. The Musalman invasions of the Brahmaputra Valley all bear the character of temporary success due to superior arms and discipline, and ultimate failure induced by the unfavourable nature of the climate, ignorance of the country, want of communications and the impossibility of repairing losses by reinforcements.* The first expedition of the kind was despatched after the overthrow of the kingdom of Kamatapur, under a leader recorded in Assamese history as Turbuk, who fought his way as far as Koliabar, and was then defeated and destroyed. A second invasion occurred about the middle of the sixteenth century. The leader of this expedition was Kala Pahar, an apostate from Hinduism, whose chief object appears to have been the destruction of Hindu temples, and to whom is ascribed the spoliation of the old temples at Hajo and Kamakhya. The next invasion was that already referred to, in which Parikshit was overthrown, and this was followed later by another (in 1637) in which Balit Narayan was slain, and the rule of the Musalmans was extended as far as Gauhati. The last and greatest invasion was that undertaken by Mir Jumla in 1660-62. He captured the capital of the Ahoms, and is said to have sent words to the Emperor that the next campaign would carry him to the confines of China. His force, however, melted away in the rains, and he was obliged to retreat with the loss of all his guns. The ultimate result of this disastrous invasion was to strengthen the hold of the Ahoms on Lower Assam, and their rule was shortly afterwards extended to Gauhati, at which place an Ahom Governor was stationed, until near the end of the eighteenth century, when it became the headquarters of the Ahom kings. Musalman invasion.

72. It is said that the Ahoms brought no women with them in their invasion and took to wife girls of the country. This may explain their loss of individuality as a race of Burmese origin. At the present time few of them retain any knowledge of their own language. They had been largely converted to Hinduism before the last Muhammadan invasion. The reigning monarch became a convert in 1655A.D., and adopted the name of Jayadwaja Singh, and henceforward all the Ahom kings bear both Ahom and Hindu names. There were now no rivals to the Ahoms in the Assam Valley. The Kacharis had been defeated just before Mir Jumla's invasion, and the Rajas of Darrang and Bijni had become tributary to the Ahom power on the fall of the Koch monarchy. In 1695, Rudra Singh, the greatest of the Ahom kings, ascended the throne. His dominions comprised the whole of the Brahmaputra Valley, so far as it was inhabited, except a strip of submontane territory claimed by the Bhutias. In 1780, Gaurinath Singh succeeded to the throne. His reign was marked chiefly by a formidable rising of the Moamarias, a powerful religious sect. Gaurinath, being Fall of the Ahom kingdom.

* The accounts of these invasions, furnished by Musalman historians, have been collected by Blochmann in an article in the "Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal" for 1872.

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hardpressed, applied in his extremity to Mr. Rausch, a salt farmer at Goalpara. Mr. Rausch, it is said, sent a body of 700 *sipahis* to Gaurinath's aid, but these *sipahis* were cut to pieces by the Moamarias. The Raja of Manipur also sent an armed force to Gaurinath's assistance, but the Manipuris were likewise defeated. At this juncture, the king of Darrang, Krishna Narayan, taking advantage of Gaurinath's distress, made an attack upon Gauhati, whither Gaurinath had retired. Gaurinath again applied to Mr Rausch for help, and also sent a deputation to Calcutta. At the close of 1792 the British Government sent a detachment, under the command of Captain Welsh, to assist Gaurinath.* Captain Welsh defeated Krishna Narayan, put down the Moamaria insurrection, and reduced the whole valley to obedience. He was, however, recalled in 1794. A few months later Gaurinath died. He was succeeded by Kamaleswar Singh, who was a mere puppet in the hands of his minister. He died in 1809, and was succeeded by his brother, Chandra Kanta Singh. The reign of this prince was marked by the appearance of the Burmese in Assam. Chandra Kanta, having quarrelled with his minister, the Bura Gohain, applied for aid to the Burmese. The Burmese entered Assam with a force with which the Assamese were utterly unable to cope. Shortly afterwards, however, the Burmese retired, when the Bura Gohain deposed Chandra Kanta and set up Purandar Singh. Chandra Kanta again applied to the Burmese, who sent an army and reinstated him. In 1819, Purandar Singh applied for aid to the British Government, but was refused. Chandra Kanta, however, quarrelled with the Burmese, who finally expelled him from Assam, and he sought refuge with the British officers at Goalpara. At this juncture matters had come to a crisis between the British and the Burmese, and on the 5th March 1824 war was declared against Burma.† A British force, advancing with a gunboat flotilla, conquered the valley as far as Koliabar, and during the next cold season completed the subjugation of the rest. Finally, on the 24th February 1826, the Burmese, by the treaty of Yandaboo, ceded Assam to the East India Company.

Commencement of British rule.

73. For some time after the conquest, it was still doubtful whether the Company would retain in their hands the province they had won. Mr. Scott, the Commissioner of North-East Rangpur, administered the country, Captain White being appointed in 1827 to assist him in Lower Assam, and Captain Neufville in 1828 to have charge under him of Upper Assam. The Moamarias, who had contributed so largely to the downfall of the Ahom power, and whose country (known as Matak) was the present district of Dibrugarh south of the Brahmaputra, were left under their own ruler, styled the Bor Senapati, who in May 1826 executed an agreement of allegiance to the British Government. And the Hkamti chief of Sadiya, called the Sadiya-khoa, on the 15th of the same month, was confirmed as the Company's feudatory in possession of that district.

At first, the civil and criminal duties of Assam Proper were performed by councils of the Assamese gentry, called *panchayats*, of which there were two or three in each district of the province. In judicial cases Captains White and Neufville were both Magistrates and Judges, trying the accused with the assistance of a *panchayat*, but referring all heinous cases, with their opinions, to Mr. Scott for final judgment.‡

Rule of Purandar Singh in Upper Assam.

74. In 1833 the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur north of the Brahmaputra were placed under the administration of Raja Purandar Singh, who executed a treaty binding himself to administer the country upon the principles of justice established in their territories by the East India Company, to act according to the advice of the Political Agent stationed in his principality, and to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 50,000. Thus, of Assam Proper there remained British in 1833 only the districts of Kamrup, Nowgong and Darrang (which then only extended to and included Bishnath, beyond which was Lakhimpur, subject to Purandar Singh).

The Assam Code.

75. In 1835, Act II of that year was passed, which placed all functionaries in British Assam under the control and superintendence, in civil and criminal cases, of the Sadr Court, and in revenue cases under that of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, and further declared that such superintendence should be exercised in conformity with the instructions which these functionaries might receive from the Government of Fort William in Bengal. Under this Act, rules for the administration of Assam were framed by the Commissioner, revised by the Sadr Court, and finally issued by the Court with the sanction of Government in 1837. They applied not only to Assam Proper but also to Goalpara. These rules consisted of extracts from the

* A full account of Captain Welsh's expedition has been given by Sir J. Johnston in a pamphlet published by the Foreign Department some years ago.

† A full account of the Burmese war, so far as Assam is concerned, will be found in Robinson's "Descriptive Account of Assam," published in 1841, pages 180-188.

‡ The information in this and the next paragraph is taken from Robinson's "Descriptive Account of Assam," pages 207-211.

Bengal Regulations of all that was considered at that time suitable to the circumstances and necessary for the proper administration of Assam. They were, however, merely rules of judicial procedure. They declared what courts, civil and criminal, should be established, and the mode of appointing officers thereto; they declared the jurisdiction of these courts, and provided for appeals; they prescribed a period of limitation for the institution of civil suits and the procedure to be followed in mortgage cases; they provided also for the appointment of *vakils*, the establishment and remuneration of process-servers, and the keeping of judicial registers and records. They established in each district a summary suit court, to be presided over generally by the Assistant in charge of the district (now called the Deputy Commissioner) in his capacity of Collector; they also established an office for the registry of deeds. Lastly, in all cases not specially provided for in the rules, officers were directed to conform, as nearly as the circumstances of the province would permit, to the provisions of the Bengal Regulations, and in all doubtful matters of a judicial nature to refer for instructions to the Sadr Court. The Police Law of Assam was at the same time declared to be Regulation XX of 1817 with certain modifications.

In 1839, a few supplementary civil rules were issued by the Sadr Court with the sanction of Government, the effect of which was to give to Junior Assistants (now called Assistant Commissioners) and Sub-Assistants (now called Extra Assistant Commissioners) a greater share in the judicial administration of the country than was allowed to them by the rules of 1837; and in the same year an officer, styled Deputy Commissioner (whose designation was in 1861 changed to that of Judicial Commissioner), was appointed to relieve the Commissioner of his duties as Civil and Sessions Judge.

Resumption of Upper Assam.

76. In October 1838, the territories which had been placed in charge of Purandar Singh were resumed by the Government of India. The Raja had fallen deeply into arrears with his tribute, and declared himself unable any longer to carry on the administration. At first, the officers placed in charge of this tract acted under the direct orders of the Government of India in the Foreign Department; but in July 1839 a proclamation was issued by the Governor General in Council annexing the territory to Bengal, dividing it into two districts, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, and directing that these two districts should be administered in the same manner as the districts of Lower Assam. In August 1842 another proclamation was issued, annexing the territory of the Bor Senapati, who had died in 1839, and whose son refused to accept the management of the country on the terms offered to him. Sadiya, the district of the Hkamti chief, was, by the same proclamation, incorporated with the rest of the province. This place had been the scene of a rising of the Hkamtis in 1839. They treacherously attacked the station of Sadiya, and killed the Political Agent, Colonel White. The combination was not broken up and dispersed till many lives had been lost. The son of the Sadiyakhoa, for his complicity in this rebellion, was exiled with his followers to Narayanpur, on the Dikrang, in the west of the Lakhimpur district, where the colony still exists.

Thus, from 1842, the whole of Assam Proper was under the same system of administration, save that in Lakhimpur, including Matak and Sadiya, an establishment of *panchayat* courts was, for special reasons, maintained, to which persons of rank and influence in the district were appointed, without much regard to their judicial qualifications. This special *panchayat* system was abolished in 1860.

Extension of general laws to Assam.

77. In that year, Act VIII of 1859 (the Civil Procedure Code) and the Limitation Act (XIV of 1859) were extended to the whole of Assam Proper and Goalpara. In 1861 the Criminal Procedure Code of that year was extended to the province, and in 1862 the Police Act (V of 1861). In 1862, also, the Penal Code came into force in the province without special extension. By these measures the Assam Code of 1837 (which had been meanwhile revised in 1847) was superseded. In 1861 the designations of the officers serving in the province under the Commissioner were changed, with the sanction of the Government of India, as follows: the Deputy Commissioner became the Judicial Commissioner, the Senior or Principal Assistants Deputy Commissioners, the Junior Assistants Assistant Commissioners, and the Sub-Assistants Extra Assistant Commissioners. Side by side with these officers, there existed in the province a separate judicial establishment, consisting of one Principal Sadr Amin, two Sadr Amins, and ten Munsifs. In March 1872 this branch of the service was entirely abolished. Several of the Munsifs were created Extra Assistant Commissioners, and the ordinary district staff were invested with civil judicial powers, the Deputy Commissioner becoming Subordinate Judge and the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners Munsifs. This arrangement is substantially that which now exists.

Goalpara—Early history.

78. The Goalpara district consists of two very distinct portions—the permanently-settled part, comprising the three thanas of Goalpara, Dhubri, and Karaibari, and the temporarily-settled part, called the Eastern Duars. The first tract was

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originally a portion of the district of Rangpur, and, as such, was included in the province of Bengal, which, by the Mogul Emperor's *farman* of the 12th August 1765, became part of the dominions of the East India Company. Like the neighbouring district of Kamrup, this tract was inhabited chiefly by Koches, Meches, and Kacharis. It formed part of the dominions of the Koch dynasty, the rise and fall of which have already been described, and passed out of their hands on the defeat of Parikshit, when it became a Musalman province.

On its southern border, the Goalpara district marches with the Garo Hills, and the thana of Karaibari, which stretches southwards from Dhubri, is almost wholly composed of hilly country inhabited by Garos. These mountaineers were, in the early period of our rule, a terror to the people of the plains, and the chiefs of the border country, who had to restrain their incursions, were allowed in return for this duty to hold their estates at a very light revenue. Thus it happened that, when the decennial settlement of Bengal was made, the few great zamindars among whom the permanently-settled portion of Goalpara was divided were assessed at an almost nominal amount. It is somewhat doubtful whether this assessment was ever formally converted into a permanent charge; but these estates have uniformly been treated as covered by the permanent settlement of Bengal.

Regulation X of 1822.

79. Shortly after this settlement, it became manifest that the zamindars of the plains country, instead of proving guardians of the peace of the border, were rather likely, by their oppressions and exactions, to foster strife with the Garos of the hills, whose raids were constantly provoked by the treatment they received from the landholders to whose markets they resorted. In order to check these exactions, and to promote the growth of order and civilisation amongst the hill people, it was deemed necessary to place this tract under a special form of administration. Accordingly in 1822, a Regulation (No. X) was passed by the Governor General in Council, exempting the three thanas of north-east Rangpur from the operation of the General Regulations, and placing them under the control of a Special Civil Commissioner. Mr. David Scott was the first official entrusted with the charge, and he took into his own hands the collection of the rents claimed by the zamindars from the Garo villages, paying over to them the proceeds, after deducting the costs of collection and administration. At the same time, the duties levied by the zamindars on the hill produce (chiefly cotton) were commuted to an annual payment by Government, and abolished, Government recouping itself by imposing a special house assessment upon the Garo villages.

Incorporation in Assam Proper.

80. When Assam Proper was conquered from the Burmese in 1826, Mr. Scott became Commissioner of the new province, with which Goalpara was incorporated as a separate district. From that date until 1866 it remained a portion of Assam, and was administered on the same system as the rest of the province.

Transfer to Koch Bihar.

81. In 1866, the Eastern Duars, a thinly-peopled but extensive tract along the base of the Himalayas north of permanently-settled Goalpara, which had previously been under the rule of the Deb Raja of Bhutan, was annexed by the British Government on the conclusion of the Bhutan war. For some little time these Duars were a separate district; but in 1867 the Bengal Commissionership of Koch Bihar was formed, and from the 1st January of that year the Eastern Duars were joined to Goalpara, and the entire district was included in that Commissionership, the Commissioner having the powers of a Civil and Sessions Judge within his jurisdiction. In October 1868, the judicial administration of Goalpara and the Garo Hills was taken away from the Commissioner of Koch Bihar, because of the inconvenient distance of this tract of country from his headquarters, and placed in the hands of the Judicial Commissioner of Assam. The executive control, however, remained, as before, with the Commissioner of Koch Bihar. In 1869, the Garo Hills were formed into a separate district by Act XXII of that year, which repealed Regulation X of 1822, but still exempted the hills from the operation of the General Regulations. In the same year the Eastern Duars were similarly deregulationised by Act XVI of 1869.

Finally, when the Chief Commissionership of Assam was formed in February 1874, the district of Goalpara and the Eastern Duars and the district of the Garo Hills were retransferred to Assam.

Cachar—Early history.

82. The early history of Cachar, or Hiramba, is extremely obscure. Although it bears the same name as that of a section of the Bodo population of Assam, the part of the district south of the Barail was not until some two hundred years ago in the possession of the race now called Kacharis. It would appear that it belonged to the kingdom of Tippera, or Tripura, since it is stated to have been acquired by the Kachari king, who had his capital at Maibong, as a dowry upon his marriage with a Tippera princess. The Tipperas, however, are undoubtedly, as is proved by their language, themselves of the Bodo stock, and very near kinsmen, not only of the Kacharis of North Cachar, but also of those of the Brahmaputra Valley and of the Garos of the Garo Hills. Their

true history, like that of the Kachari kings of Dimapur, Maibong, and Khaspur, has been lost in the fugitive memory of a barbarous people, unacquainted with letters, and has been further darkened by the fictitious genealogies which have been invented for them by Brahman priests on their reception within the pale of Hinduism.

It is, however, certain that the last native king of Cachar was the descendant of a line of princes who came originally from the Assam Valley. Their deserted capital, Dimapur, on the Dhansiri river, beneath the Angami Naga Hills, contains some very striking monuments, the meaning and purpose of which have much perplexed explorers, and a number of large and fine tanks. From this site, now buried in dense jungle, the Kachari kings were forced, by the aggressions of the Ahoms and of the Angami Nagas on the south, to remove into the interior of the hills, and take up their abode at Maibong, on the Mahur river. While settled there, about the beginning or middle of the seventeenth century, the Kachari king married a daughter of the Tippera Raja, and received the valley of Cachar as her dowry. And some time between 1700 and 1750 the court was transferred from the hills, across the Barail, to Khaspur, on the Madhura river in the plains. Here the Kachari rulers found themselves in presence of an already settled population of Hindus and Musalmans from Sylhet, who had overflowed from that district into the valley. The process of Hinduisation had probably already commenced at Maibong, at least among the royal family and the court, if not among the Kachari population. At Khaspur it proceeded rapidly, and in 1790 the formal act of conversion took place, the Raja Krishna Chandra and his brother, Govind Chandra, entering the body of a copper image of a cow, and emerging therefrom as Hindus and Kshatriyas. A genealogy of a hundred generations, reaching to Bhima, the hero of the *Mahabharat*, was composed for them by the Brahmans, only the last nine or ten names in which have probably any claim to represent real personages.

Taken under British protection.

83. In the beginning of the present century the valley of Cachar became the scene of a struggle for supremacy between the Manipuri brothers Marjit, Chaurjit, and Gambhir Singh, who had been driven from their own country by the Burmese. Krishna Chandra had died in 1813, and Govind Chandra succeeded him. The Manipuri invaders speedily overran the country, and set at naught the feeble authority of the Kachari king. In 1823 Marjit held the Hailakandi valley, and Gambhir Singh the rest of South Cachar. The Burmese were then in Assam, and as lords of Manipur (which they had conquered from Marjit in 1819) threatened to annex Cachar. This the British Government, seeing the danger which it would cause to Sylhet, decided to prevent. Negotiations were first entered on with a view to an alliance with the Manipuri brothers. These overtures fell through, and it was resolved to take up the cause of Govind Chandra, who was, with the Raja of Jaintia, taken under British protection. The Burmese armies, which had advanced both from Assam and Manipur, were driven out, and Govind Chandra was replaced on the throne. A treaty was executed on the 6th March 1824, by which the Raja placed himself under British protection, and agreed to pay a tribute of Rs. 10,000.* Govind Chandra's reign after his restoration was very short. He was assassinated in 1830, and, as he left no heir, either natural or adopted, the country was annexed by proclamation on the 14th August 1832.

British rule.

84. In its subsequent history Cachar much resembles Assam. Act VI of 1835 (like Act II of that year in the Assam Valley) placed it under the control of the Sadr Court and Board of Revenue. It was administered from the first by a Superintendent, who in 1833 was vested with the powers of a Magistrate and Collector; and in the same year it was transferred from the supervision of the Commissioner of Assam to that of the Commissioner of Dacca. It differs from Assam in never having had any special code of administrative rules drawn up for it. The officers in charge applied "the spirit of the Regulations" in dealing with judicial matters. The Civil Procedure Code and Limitation Act were formally extended to the district in 1859. In 1862 the Criminal Procedure Code was extended, and the Penal Code came into force.

Since Cachar became British territory, the only important political events which have marked its history have been the Lushai raids of 1849 and subsequent years, which will be discussed in the paragraph dealing with the Lushais. In the Mutiny of 1857 the sepoys of the 34th Native Infantry, who mutinied in Chittagong in November of that year, were met in Cachar, and were defeated and dispersed by the Sylhet Light Infantry.

Sylhet.

85. Of Sylhet under its early Hindu rulers hardly anything is known. It is believed that its native population is largely made up of non-Aryan tribes, probably of the same race as the Bodo Tipperas who now inhabit the hills on its southern

* It is commonly asserted that the Burmese were driven out of Cachar in the course of the first Burmese war. These events, however, occurred before the formal declaration of war (5th March 1824).

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margin. The Rajas who held the country at the date of the Musalman conquest, the chief of whom was Gaur Govind who ruled the south and centre, while the Raja of Laur, under the Khasi Hills, governed the north, had evidently, from their names, been taken up into Hinduism, and the country had been colonised by Brahmans, who gradually extended their proselytising operations. The district was conquered by the Muhammadan kings of Bengal in 1384 A.D., the invaders being led by a spiritual chief named Shah Jalal, whose shrine at Sylhet is still famous. Laur and Jaintia, under the hills, retained their independence during the rule of the Bengal kings. After the absorption of that province in the Mogul Empire under Akbar, Laur became a dependent principality. The last Hindu Raja of Laur embraced Muhammadanism at Delhi in Aurangzeb's reign. Todar Mal assessed Sylhet (excluding Jaintia, which was never conquered by the Moguls, and Laur) at Rs. 1,67,040, and it was ruled continuously from that date, until it passed into the hands of the East India Company with the rest of Bengal in 1865, by a succession of *amils* subordinate to the Nawab of Dacca.

The district was included in the decennial settlement of Bengal, which afterwards became permanent in 1793, but the operation of assessment was conducted in an exceptional manner, each holding being separately measured and settled upon fixed rates. Thus, in Sylhet, the permanent settlement assumed a form which it bears nowhere else except perhaps in Chittagong. It was the policy of the Collector, Mr. J. Willes, to put aside the *chaudhuris* or zamindars, who elsewhere obtained settlement, and to deal direct with the better class of raiyats or *mirasdars*. The result is that the settlement is in great part a permanent *raiyatwari* one, the area which each holding should contain being (so far as the records have been preserved and can be trusted) accurately known. All land not included in the permanent settlement, or not subsequently settled in perpetuity, is held on temporary leases.

The history of Sylhet since the permanent settlement has not been eventful. The depredations of the Khasis on the north were brought to a close by the occupation of the station of Cherrapunji in 1828, while those of the Lushais on the south were stopped, so far as Sylhet is concerned, by the expedition of 1871-72.

Jaintia.

86. The Raja of Jaintia, a Chief of Khasi lineage, was found by us, on the annexation of the Sylhet district, in possession of a tract of plains country lying between the town of Sylhet and the Cachar border and measuring about 450 square miles, in addition to his hill territory stretching from the foot of the hills overlooking the Surma Valley to the Kalang river in Nowgong. At the same time that Cachar was taken under British protection, in March 1824, a treaty was made with Ram Singh, the Raja of Jaintia, by which he acknowledged allegiance to the Company, and promised to aid in the military operations then commenced against the Burmese in Assam. In 1832 four British subjects were seized by Chatter Singh, Chief of Gobha, under the orders of the heir-apparent, Rajendra Singh, and three of them were sacrificed to Kali, the tutelary goddess of the Raja's family. One escaped, and gave information of the outrage, which led to a demand by the British Government for the surrender of the culprits. Negotiations went on for two years without any result. In November 1832 Ram Singh died, and Rajendra Singh succeeded him; and it was finally resolved to punish this atrocious crime (which had been preceded by similar outrages in 1821, 1827, and 1832) by dispossessing the Raja of his territory in the plains, and confining him thenceforth to the hilly tract. On the 15th March 1835 formal possession was taken of Jaintiapur, and the annexation of the plains territory to Sylhet was proclaimed by Colonel Lister. In April the district of Gobha was similarly annexed to Nowgong in Assam. Upon this, the Raja declared himself unwilling to continue in possession of his hill territory, over which he had but little control, and it also became included in the Company's dominions. The population of the plains of Jaintia, like that of Cachar, is made up of Sylhet raiyats, with but a slight leaven of settlers from the hills.

The Garo Hills.

87. The history of the Garo Hills has already been touched upon in the account given of the Goalpara district, in which, up to 1866, they were, so far as British administration extended, included. These hills, peopled by a wild race nearly akin to the Meches or Kacharis of the plains, were surrounded on all sides except the east by the estates of the great frontier zamindars or *chaudhuris* of Rangpur and Mymensingh. The Garos were in the habit of resorting to the markets in the plains estates of these zamindars for the sale of their cotton and the purchase of the supplies they needed; and the police of the border was maintained, and taxation was levied on the hill produce, by the zamindars by means of *barkandazes* whom they established at these marts. The chief of these *chaudhuris* were those of Mechpara, Kalumalupara, and Karaibari in Rangpur, and Sherpur and Shushang in Mymensingh. The Garos, like most of the wild tribes of the north-east frontier, lived in a state of constant internecine warfare, and it was a necessary ceremony at the

funeral of a great chief to bury with him as many human heads as could be procured for the purpose, and, if possible, to put to death on the occasion living captives. The border was thus vexed by constant raids for the purpose of obtaining heads or prisoners, while the exactions of the plains zamindars at the submontane *hâts* likewise furnished frequent occasions for quarrel.

Under the Moguls, the *chaudhuris* of the border paid their assessment in elephants, cotton, and *agar* wood to the *faujdar* of Rangamati, midway between Goalpara and Dhubri. After the Company obtained the *Diwani*, a *sazawal*, or contractor, was annually appointed who took the place of the *faujdar*, and made his own arrangements with the *chaudhuris*. Until 1787 the revenue of these landlords continued to be paid, as before, in kind. Cash payments were introduced in 1788, and the permanent settlement shortly afterwards followed.

Part of the Garos brought within zamindars' estates.

88. In 1775, the *chaudhuris* of Mechpara and Karaibari, to avenge some Garo raids of more than usual severity, invaded the hills bordering on their respective estates and entered on a career of conquest. They remained two or three years in the hills, and brought the tribes of a large tract entirely under their control. The zamindar of Karaibari, Mohendra Narayan, was especially successful in establishing his influence over the south-western portion of the hills, and, when the Company called his proceedings in question, he defied them from his fastnesses. After a long course of warfare with other *chaudhuris* and with the chiefs of the interior, Mahendra Narayan lost his estates, which were at last sold by the Company for arrears of revenue, and his influence gradually dwindled.

Mr. Scott's proposals, 1816.

89. Meantime the raids of the Garos on the plains continued, and in 1816 Mr. David Scott was deputed to report on the best means of preserving the peace of the frontier. He found that at that time the frontier zamindars had for the most part succeeded in reducing a greater or smaller area on their borders to a state of subjection, the largest conquests being those made by Karaibari and Mechpara. Beyond these areas thus incorporated in their zamindaris, the *chaudhuris* had so far established their influence that several villages in the interior paid them tribute. Beyond these, again, in the heart of the hills were the independent or *bemalwa* Garos. Mr. Scott proposed to separate all the tributary Garos (from whom, and from the independent villages beyond, the raids proceeded) from the zamindars' control, and take them under Government management, compensating the zamindars for any losses which they might show that they had sustained; to make the chiefs of the villages thus brought under our jurisdiction responsible for keeping the peace and for the collection of revenue; and to bring the submontane *hâts* under Government control, all duties being abolished there, except those levied upon the independent Garos frequenting them. These proposals were approved by Government, and were afterwards embodied in Regulation X of 1822, which gave Mr. Scott, who was appointed Special Commissioner, authority to extend British administration over other Garo communities which might be still independent, and exempted the whole tract (together with the district of Goalpara) from the operation of the General Regulations. After the passing of the Regulation, Mr. Scott proceeded to conclude engagements with the independent chiefs, and no fewer than a hundred and twenty-one of those living west of the Someswari are said to have entered into terms with him.

Affairs subsequent to Regulation X of 1822.

90. Mr. Scott was shortly afterwards called away from his work among the Garos to assume the administration of Assam and the Eastern Frontier generally, and his place was taken by the Principal Assistant of Goalpara, who was aided by a Garo, Sarbarahkar, with his headquarters at Singhimari, situated nearly opposite the middle of the western face of the hills. For many years the British Government maintained a policy of non-interference with the interior of the hills. The tributary Garos within paid with great irregularity the tribute which they had agreed upon. Raids were frequent, and were followed either by expeditions or by blockade of the submontane markets—measures which were found to be quite ineffectual to stop them. Some little influence was occasionally brought to bear upon the tributary Garos through visits paid to them by the Principal Assistant of Goalpara; but these annual tours were not regularly carried out, as designed by Mr. Scott, and any intermission in them was followed by an increase in the number of raids.

Establishment of a Deputy Commissioner within the hills.

91. During all these years it was believed that the climate of the hills was so deadly that no European could survive within them, and that it was impracticable to attempt any establishment of a permanent post in their midst. At last, in 1866, after two expeditions to punish raids on the side of Mymensingh of more than usual atrocity, the Government for the first time resolved to appoint a special officer to the charge of the hills. Lieutenant Williamson was selected for this purpose, and was established on a spur of the Tura mountain, with a special armed police force. Shortly after, in 1869, Act XXII of that year was passed, which enabled the Lieutenant-Governor to

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make special provision for the administration of the district, and to prevent the collection by zamindars or other persons of tribute, cesses, or other exactions in the hills. By this Act, Regulation X of 1822 was repealed. That Regulation had applied only to North-East Rangpur, afterwards the Goalpara district. The Act of 1869 included Mymensingh, on which side also zamindari influence had been pushed into the hills, and had provoked retaliation by the hillmen.

This experiment proved completely successful. The Deputy Commissioner of the Garo Hills and his police force brought almost instant quiet to the district. Hearty aid was given to him by the Garos, and the headmen, relieved from the dread of retaliatory feuds, at once began to perform their duty, to deliver up offenders, and to enforce the payment of revenue. Raids ceased, and numerous villages, till then independent, voluntarily became tributary.

Subjection of the last independent Garos.

92. In 1870 the survey, which had been carried through the neighbouring Khasi Hills, entered the district, and it was resolved to explore as much of the independent Garo country as was possible in the course of surveying the area that acknowledged British authority. During that year no opposition whatever was offered by the independent villages, of which about sixty still remained in the heart of the district; but in March 1871 a survey coolie, who had been sent to clear a station on the top of a hill, was seized by some Garos of Rongmagiri, and was tortured and murdered. This put a stop to survey operations for the time, and in the ensuing cold weather (1871-72) an expedition was led against the offending village. In the summer of 1872 some independent villages raided certain protected Garo villages which had afforded assistance to the expedition against Rongmagiri, and were attacked and occupied by the Deputy Commissioner. It was eventually resolved that the whole of the country which had hitherto been left to its independence should be brought under the same management as the rest; and in the cold weather of 1872-73 three detachments of police, from Mymensingh on the south, from Tura on the west, and from Goalpara on the north, marched through the country which it had been decided to annex. All resistance was easily overpowered, *lashkars* or headmen were appointed, the heads taken in recent raids were surrendered, and peaceful administration was established.

Recent history.

93. Since the expedition of 1872-73, the history of the district has been one of profound peace. In February and March 1881, a slight disturbance took place near Bangaikhata, at the north-western corner of the hills, in consequence of the construction of a road through that tract; but it was speedily suppressed without bloodshed. The whole of the district, with the exception of a small tract of plains land on the north, is now under the exclusive management of the Deputy Commissioner, and is free from the exactions of zamindars, the greater part of whose interests in the area formerly included in their zamindaris or tributary to them have been bought out and extinguished.

The Khasi Hills.

94. The Khasi Hills were first brought into direct relations with the British Government in 1826, after the conquest of Assam.* The chiefs of the Khasi States on the northern border of the hills had gradually, since the decay of the Ahom power in the year 1794, established themselves in the plains of Kamrup in the tracts known as Duars, and were accustomed to pay only a nominal allegiance to the Assam kings. When Assam was acquired by the East India Company, it became an object with Mr. Scott to establish communication through the hills with Sylhet, and, while the new administration of Kamrup refused to recognise the right of the Khasi rulers to encroach on the plains of Assam, Mr. Scott was able, by agreeing to allow Tirat Singh, Siem of Nongkhlao, to rent some lands in Borduar, to induce that chief, and to persuade the other Siems, to permit a road to be made through the hills *viâ* Cherrapunji, Maoflang, and Nongkhlao to Gauhati.

In 1829, the insolent talk of some native servants belonging to the surveying party who were making the road led to an attack upon the party at the village of Nongkhlao, and Lieutenants Burlton and Bedingfield, with about fifty or sixty followers, were massacred. This event was followed by a general confederacy of most of the neighbouring chiefs to resist the British, and led to a long and harassing war, in which troops from Assam and Sylhet co-operated. Eventually, Tirat Singh submitted in 1833, and was confined as a prisoner for life in the Dacca Jail. The other chiefs had either before made terms with the British Government, or did so immediately after. A British officer with an adequate military force was posted to Cherrapunji, which was abandoned in 1866 for Shillong, and this sufficed to maintain tranquillity.

The greater part of the Khasi Hills consists of the territories of native chiefs in subsidiary alliance with the British Government. Only a few scattered villages have

* The Khasis had previously been known only as troublesome marauders upon the plains of Sylhet, where they were much dreaded. During the last century their ravages between 1780 and 1790 are specially mentioned as severe. A line of forts was kept up under the hills to check these incursions.

remained British since the conquest of 1833, or have been ceded since then under special circumstances. The people govern themselves through their elected rulers, who are bound to follow the advice of their *darbars*. They pay no revenue to the British Government, but, under sanads based upon agreements taken in 1858, which each Siem is required to confirm on investiture, they have ceded to the paramount power the mines and minerals, elephants, forests, and other natural products of their States, on the condition of receiving half the profits from these sources. All petty crime committed by their subjects is dealt with by the chiefs and their *darbars*, only heinous offences, or those cases in which subjects of different States are concerned, being tried by the district authorities. The people are extremely well-to-do, and make much money by trade with the plains in the valuable staples which the hills produce.

The Jaintia Hills.

95. It has already been related how, on the annexation of the plains country of Jaintia in 1835, Raja Rajendra Singh declined to retain the hilly portion of his principality, which thus lapsed to the British Government. This tract, inhabited by the same race of mountaineers as the neighbouring Khasi territory, was thereupon placed under the administration of the Political Agent at Cherrapunji. The Jaintia Hills were divided into twenty-three petty districts, nineteen of which are in charge of headmen, chosen by the people themselves, called *Doll is*, and the remaining four in that of Sardars. From 1835 to 1855 the people were left very much to themselves. The *Dollois* heard all civil cases, at first without exception, and after 1841 up to a certain limit, and all criminal complaints not of a heinous character in which only people of their own villages were concerned. No taxes of any kind were levied throughout the hills, the only contribution required being the annual offering of a he-goat from each village, which had been exacted by the Jaintia Raja. In 1853 Mr. Mills, of the Sadr Court, reported on the district and drew attention to the absence of administrative control in this portion of it. He suggested that a house-tax (which had been proposed by the Political Officer in 1849, and then negatived by Government) should be imposed, and that a police thana should be established in the hills with a view to check the lawless proceedings of the *Dollois*. The latter recommendation was carried out, and a thana was established at Jowai; but the former, though approved by Lord Dalhousie, remained without effect. In 1858, Mr. Allen, of the Board of Revenue, again reported on the district, and strongly urged the acceptance of Mr. Mills' recommendation that a moderate house-tax should be imposed. He urged, moreover, that a European civil officer should be stationed in the midst of the tract, to be to the people a visible representative of British authority. The latter of these proposals was neglected, the former was adopted. In 1860 the house-tax was imposed, and within a few months the people were in open rebellion. Fortunately, a large force of troops was close at hand, and, before the revolt could make any head, it was stamped out and the villages were awed into apparent submission. After this rising, measures were taken to improve the administration of the *Dollois*, who were notoriously corrupt, but still no officer was posted to the subdivision.

In January 1862, the people of the Jaintia Hills were again in fierce rebellion. The occasion was the imposition, only a year after the house-tax had been introduced, of the income-tax, to the payment of which three hundred and ten persons in the hills were subjected. This new impost, quickly succeeding the former, roused the deepest resentment among a people who had paid nothing for generations, either to their own Raja or to the British Government, and had been left since annexation entirely to themselves. The suppression of the revolt was long and tedious. Crushed apparently in four months after its outbreak, it again almost immediately burst out afresh; and it was not till November 1863 that the last of the rebel leaders surrendered, and the pacification of Jaintia could be said to be complete.

A Subdivisional Officer has since those events been stationed at Jowai. He is required to make himself acquainted with the Khasi language, and to be able to dispense with interpreters. The administration of the *Dollois* has been reformed, education (by the agency of the Welsh Mission established in the Khasi Hills since 1842) has been encouraged, and the country has been thoroughly opened up by roads. The Jaintia Hills are now as secure and peaceful as the neighbouring Khasi States.

North Cachar.

96. North Cachar, the tract of thinly-peopled, low undulating hills, divided from the valley of the Barak by the range of the Barail, and interposed between the Jaintia Hills and the Naga Hills, has already been briefly referred to in the section dealing with Cachar. When the district was under native rule, during the last years of the reign of Govind Chandra, this portion of it was the scene of a struggle between that prince and one of his officers, named Kacha Din,* who rebelled and endeavoured to

* Called "Kohee Dan" by Colonel Butler,—Mills' "Assam Report," page clxii. "Kacha Din" is the name given by Pemberton,—"Eastern Frontier," page 191.

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establish an independent government in the hills. He was captured and put to death by Govind Chandra, but his son, Tularam, a *chaprasi* in the Raja's service, immediately revived the rebellion, and in 1824 joined the Burmese in their attack on Cachar. After a series of years, during which Tularam successfully held his own, Mr. Scott induced Govind Chandra in 1829 to assign to him a tract of country in the hills, and bind himself to respect these limits. After the assassination of the Raja of Cachar, Tularam was a candidate for the vacant throne, but failed to establish his title. In 1835, he entered into an agreement with the British Government, in which he resigned all the western portion of the tract ceded by Govind Chandra, retaining the tract on the east, bounded on the south by the Mahur river and the Naga Hills, on the west by the Dayang, on the east by the Dhansiri, and on the north by the Jamuna and Dayang. For this he was to pay a tribute of four pairs of elephants' tusks annually, receiving a monthly pension of Rs. 50. Tularam died in October 1850. His sons, Nakulram and Braja Nath, held the country for two and half years more, when the former was killed in the Naga Hills, whither he had led an expedition to avenge an attack on his village of Semkhor. In 1854 the tract was resumed by the British Government, the surviving members of Tularam's family receiving pensions.

In 1839, the portion of North Cachar not included in Tularam's dominions was annexed to Nowgong, and in 1853 a separate officer was placed in charge of the subdivision with his headquarters at Asalu, near the northern skirts of the Barail. It was his business to keep order among the Kukis and Kachcha Nagas dwelling in this neighbourhood, and to protect them against the Angami Nagas to the east, who were constantly making raids into this country and that held by Tularam. In 1854, this officer's charge was augmented by the addition of Tularam's principality.

The Naga Hills—Early history.

97. The defence of North Cachar and the Mikir Hills in Nowgong, lying to the north of that subdivision, from the attacks of the Angami Nagas, was a task which experience proved could not be successfully effected from Asalu. These turbulent neighbours led yearly expeditions into the hills and into the valleys of the Jamuna, Dayang, and Dhansiri rivers. Outposts throughout the hills held only the ground they covered, and the Nagas were able to creep by them with impunity. Ten military expeditions were led into the Naga Hills between 1835 and 1851, the greater number of which were to punish raids. In 1846, a police post, under Bhogchand Darogha, was established at Samaguting on a hill overlooking the Dhansiri Valley south of Dimapur. In 1849, Bhogchand was killed at Piphima in the hills by the men of Khonoma and Mezuma. In 1850, Lieutenant Vincent led a force to Mezuma to avenge Bhogchand's death, and remained there for six months, burning Khonoma during his stay. In the winter of 1850-51, the tenth expedition, with the strongest British force that had entered the hills, advanced to complete the work of punishment. On the 10th and 11th December 1850 the strong fort of Khonoma was taken in almost the same circumstances as those that attended its capture twenty-nine years later, in November 1879. Paplongmai was burnt, and the Nagas of Kekrima, who challenged our troops, lost three hundred killed in a hand-to-hand fight, which was long remembered in the hills.

After this successful expedition the Government of India decided upon a complete withdrawal from interference with the internal concerns of the Angami Nagas. The Governor General, Lord Dalhousie, wrote in his Minute of the 20th February 1851 :—

> Hereafter we should confine ourselves to our own ground; protect it as it can and must be protected; not meddle the feuds or fights of these savages; encourage trade with them as long as they are peaceful towards us; and rigidly exclude them from all communication, either to sell what they have got or to buy what they want, if they should become turbulent or troublesome.
>
> These are the measures which are calculated to allay their natural fears of our aggression upon them, and to repel their aggression on our people. This will make them feel our power both to repel their attacks, and to exclude them from advantages they desire, far better, at less cost, and with more justice, than by annexing their country openly by a declaration, or virtually by a partial occupation.

In March 1851, our troops were withdrawn, and in that year twenty-two Naga raids were reported, in which fifty-five persons were killed, ten were wounded, and a hundred and thirteen were taken captive. In 1853, as already related, an officer was stationed in the North Cachar Hills at Asalu; but he was instructed to regard the Angamis as persons living beyond the jurisdiction of the British Government, and this although in 1841 the watershed of the Barail range to the south of the Angami country had been authoritatively laid down as the boundary of jurisdiction between Manipur and Assam. A line of outposts, with regular patrols, was established between Asalu and Barpathar, in the Nambor forest; but these outposts were reduced in 1857 and were gradually withdrawn.

Formation of the Naga Hills district.

98. Raids continued to be numerous between 1853 and 1865, during which years nineteen occurred, two hundred and thirty-two British subjects being killed, wounded,

or carried off. In 1864 and 1865 the policy to be followed towards the Angami Nagas again came under review, and the concurrent opinion of the local officers, the Commissioner, Colonel Hopkinson, and the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Cecil Beadon, was that it was necessary for the credit of our administration to advance into the hills, "to re-assert our authority over the Nagas, and bring them under a system of administration suited to their circumstances, and gradually to reclaim them from habits of lawlessness to those of order and civilisation."

The Government of India, in 1866, agreed to the proposal that a new district should be formed, with its headquarters at Samaguting, Asalu being abolished as a subdivision, and North Cachar being divided between the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, South Cachar, and Nowgong, that portion lying to the west of the Dhansiri and the country on both banks of the Dayang forming, with the Angami Naga Hills, the new district. But they desired that the main object to be kept in view should be not to extend our rule into the interior, but to protect the low lands from the incursions of the Nagas.

Captain Gregory, the first officer in charge of the new district, was succeeded in 1869 by Captain J. Butler, whose energetic administration did much to consolidate our power in the hills. Acting in the spirit of his instructions, he received the allegiance of those villages which freely tendered it, but made no effort to include those who were not willing to become British subjects. Much of his time was given to exploration with survey parties, and in 1876 he met his death in a fight with the Lhota Nagas of Pangti, a village in the hills east of the Dayang river.

Advance to Kohima.

99. In February 1877, the Angami Nagas of Mezuma raided the Kachcha Naga village of Gumaigaju, in the heart of North Cachar, killing six and wounding two persons. The cause of the attack was a feud thirty years old. With this exception, no raid had been committed by Angami Nagas within British territory since 1866, although there were numerous complaints of their depredations in Manipur, and their internal feuds were incessant. The village of Mezuma refused to give up the raiders, and in the cold weather of 1877-78 an expedition was sent against it, and the village was burned. Mr. Carnegy, the Political Officer, was accidentally killed by a sentry of his own party while occupying Mezuma. These events led to a further review of the position which we occupied in the hills, and in 1878 it was determined by Colonel Keatinge, after a visit to the country, to abandon Samaguting, a low and unhealthy site on the extreme edge of the Angami country, and to fix the future headquarters of the Political Officer at Kohima in the midst of the group of powerful villages which it was specially necessary to control. This selection was approved by the Government of India in March 1878, and by the end of the next cold weather the transfer from Samaguting to Kohima was completed.

In the course of the rains of 1879, indications of coming trouble began to present themselves, but no serious apprehensions were entertained by the Political Officer, Mr. Damant, who had planned an expedition during the cold weather into the Hatigoria country to the east of the Dayang. Before starting on this, however, he resolved to visit the powerful villages of Jotsoma, Khonoma, and Mezuma, to ascertain their disposition, and to decide whether he might safely leave Kohima. On the 14th October he arrived at Khonoma, and leaving half his escort of twenty-one sepoys and sixty-five police with his baggage at the foot of the hill, he advanced with the other half up the narrow path leading to the strongly-fortified village site. The gate of the village was found closed, and as Mr. Damant stood before it, he was shot dead. A volley was then poured into his escort, who turned and fled down the hill. The Nagas followed, and dispersed the troops and police, who endeavoured by twos and threes to escape to Kohima. Of the military accompanying Mr. Damant, ten were killed and five were wounded. Of the police, twenty-five were killed and fourteen were wounded.

When this news reached Kohima, preparations were made to resist the attack. The Subdivisional Officer was summoned from Wokha, fifty-seven miles distant, and arrived with his force of sepoys and police on the 19th October. The stockade was besieged by the Nagas from the 16th to the 27th, when the garrison, who were reduced to great straits for want of food and water, were relieved, and the siege was raised, by the arrival of Colonel Johnstone, Political Agent of Manipur, with a force of 2,000 Manipuri troops, and his own escort of thirty sepoys and a few police.

A campaign against the Nagas then ensued, in which the 42nd and 44th Regiments, with a wing of the 18th Native Infantry, and a detachment of the 43rd Native Infantry, took part, and which lasted till March 1880. Khonoma was taken by storm on the 22nd November 1879, but the defenders retreated to a very strong position above the village on a spur of Japvo, where they maintained themselves until the end of the campaign. Jotsoma was captured on the 27th November, and every one of the thirteen

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villages that had entered into the coalition against us was either occupied or destroyed. The most notable event of the war was the daring raid made in January 1880 by a party of Khonoma men from the fort above the village, which was at the time beleaguered by our troops, upon the tea garden of Baladhan in Cachar, more than eighty miles distant, where they killed the manager, Mr. Blyth, and sixteen coolies, plundered what they could, and burned everything in the place.

On the 27th March, the fort above Khonoma submitted, and the war was at an end. Fines in grain, cash, and labour were imposed upon those villages which took part against us. The Nagas were made to surrender the firearms they were known to possess, and in some instances the removal of a village from a fortified inaccessible crest to a site below was directed. Khonoma was razed to the ground, and its site occupied by an outpost. From all villages an agreement was taken to pay revenue in the shape of one maund of rice and one rupee per house, to provide a certain amount of labour annually for State purposes, and to appoint a headman who should be responsible for good order and for carrying out the wishes of Government.

After the close of this, the twelfth and last, expedition, the question of the policy to be adopted in dealing with the Nagas was submitted by the Chief Commissioner to the Government of India, who in February 1881 finally decided that our position at Kohima should be retained, that a regiment should be permanently stationed in the hills, and that the district should be administered as British territory. Since that date the history of the district has been one of the progressive establishment of peace and good order, and the quiet submission of the Nagas to our rule.

Wokha subdivision.

100. In 1875, a subdivision was opened at Wokha, which is situated in the country of the Lhota Nagas, who are separated from the Angamis by the Rengmas and Semas. The village of Wokha had on several occasions attacked survey parties sent into the hills, and it was determined to occupy the site to secure our position there. The Lhotas have no connection with the Angamis, who do not pass through their country in visiting the plains. This tract was placed in charge of a tahsildar in 1889, when the Mokokchang subdivision was formed, as the Lhotas had by that time become so amenable to authority that it was considered unnecessary any longer to retain a European officer in their midst.

Mokokchang subdivision.

101. The Ao subdivision of the Naga Hills district with headquarters at Mokokchang was formed in 1889 because of the difficulty of protecting the Aos from raids by the trans-Dikhu tribes unless a garrison was permanently established in their midst. The leading Ao villages in fact petitioned for their incorporation in British territory. Shortly afterwards an area of political control was established, which included most of the Semas along the Tizu river and some of the eastern Angami villages. The inhabitants of this tract were not assessed to house-tax, and were not supposed to be regularly administered, the Deputy Commissioner touring through the area at frequent intervals, and dealing with serious cases which were brought to his notice. In 1903 the controlled area was regularly brought under administration, and its inhabitants were assessed to house-tax, while at the same time the eastern and southern boundaries of the district were somewhat extended. In 1910 a small area east of the Dikhu, which contained minerals, was added to the district.

In 1898 the detached portions of the Mikir and Rengma Hills, which formed the most northerly part of the Naga Hills district as originally constituted, with the level tract separating them from the Naga Hills Proper, were transferred to the districts of Nowgong and Sibsagar. The tract so transferred included the extensive Nambor forest. The difficulties of administering this area from Kohima had always been felt, and, once it was traversed by the Assam-Bengal Railway, administration from Sibsagar and Nowgong became a comparatively simple matter.

Re-establishment of the North Cachar subdivision.

102. At the close of the Angami expedition of 1879-80, Sir Steuart Bayley recommended, and the Government of India approved, the re-establishment of the subdivisional charge of North Cachar, where, since 1866, no officer had been located, the hillmen being left, save for the rare cold-weather tours of the Deputy Commissioner, entirely to themselves. The subdivision was opened in December 1880, and placed in charge of an Assistant Superintendent of Police, who was stationed at Gunjong, in the centre of the tract, a point connected by easy hill paths with Nowgong to the north, Silchar to the south, and Jowai to the west. A bridle path to Kohima, *viâ* the Kachcha or Arung Naga country, was subsequently constructed. In this hitherto isolated and thinly-peopled region, in the cold weather of 1881-82, an event occurred which cost the life of a valued officer, Major Boyd, the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar. A Kachari, named Sambhudan, declared himself inspired, claimed to work miraculous cures, and with his followers, who like himself, took the title of *deo*, or god, levied contributions on the villagers about Maibong, the old capital of the Kachari kings, where

he took up his abode. The matter came under the notice of the Subdivisional Officer, who reported it, and the Deputy Commissioner, Major Boyd, immediately started for Gunjong with 30 police, and reached that place without impediment. On the 15th January he left Gunjong with Mr. Soppitt, the Subdivisional Officer, for Maibong, which is six or eight hours' march distant. Maibong was reached and found deserted, and the party encamped in the huts of the *deos*. On the same day, Sambhudan and his party, some 20 men, executed a countermarch, and about noon fell upon Gunjong, where only a weak police guard, composed mainly of Kachari constables, who shared in the superstitions of their people, had been left. The guard were panic-stricken, and fled without firing a shot, and the *deos* burned down all the houses at Gunjong, killed two servants and a sick policeman, and left precipitately for Maibong. On the morning of the 16th, soon after dawn, Major Boyd was awakened by the shouts and drums of Sambhudan and his followers, who had passed the night in the jungle. The police formed up in line with bayonets fixed, but did not fire at first. The enemy advanced right up to the police, and struck at them with their *daos*. One man was wounded on the shoulder with a *dao*, and Major Boyd received a deep cut between the forefinger and thumb. The police then fired a volley, and killed eight of their assailants, two or three more being afterwards found dead in the jungle. Sambhudan escaped for the time, but the insurrection completely collapsed at once. Major Boyd was carried into Silchar, where his wound brought on tetanus, from which he died on the 30th January 1882. Sambhudan evaded capture till the end of the year, when he was surrounded by the police, who had received information of his hiding place. In endeavouring to escape, he received a wound, from which he quickly bled to death. Four of his gang were arrested, of whom two died in jail, and two were tried at the sessions. One was acquitted, and the other was sentenced to transportation for life.

In 1896 a great change was effected in the material conditions of the subdivision by the construction of the railway through the hills. The work presented engineering difficulties of an exceptional character. The headquarters of the railway administration were fixed at Haflong on the summit of a hill round the foot of which the line runs in a loop, and the headquarters of the subdivision were transferred from Gunjong to this place in 1896.

The Lushai Hills.

103. From the earliest period of which we have any knowledge, the hills lying to the south of Manipur, Cachar, and eastern Sylhet have been inhabited by various tribes known to the Bengalis by the common name of Kukis. These tribes have always, so far as we know, been divided into numerous families, each family acknowledging a chief or ruling house, and these houses being generally engaged in warfare with one another. Each village had its chief, whose object it was to extend the fame and power of his village by fighting with his neighbours, and whose leadership gave the Kukis distinct advantage over the democratic villages of the surrounding Nagas. During the weak rule of the last Rajas of Cachar, the valleys in the south of that district were almost depopulated by attacks from these hillmen, and at the same time the district began to be invaded by bodies of Kuki refugees, who had been driven out of their own country by more powerful chiefs, and sought protection from the rulers of Cachar. Many of these communities settled across the Barail in North Cachar, where they were comparatively safe from pursuit. Those who settled in the southern hills were often followed up by their conquerors and massacred. The older immigrants of this period (none of whom probably date from before the beginning of the present century) are known to the Cacharis as "old Kukis," those who have immigrated since British rule began being called the "new Kukis." Govind Chandra is said to have employed Kukis in his contest with Tularam Senapati, and this no doubt increased their numbers in North Cachar.

The Kuki families whose feuds first attracted most attention, and from whose raids we suffered during the first years of British rule, were the Tlangams, Changsels, Thadois, and Poitus. The Lushais were not heard of until about 1840, when they made their appearance on the Chattachura range, from which they were driving the Poitus. Their chiefs are said all to be descendants of Chunglunga, whose successor, Lalluia, had four sons,—Lalpuilena, Lalienvunga, Mangpor, and Vuta. The descendants of the first mentioned are the Eastern chiefs, of whom Lengkam, Lalbura, and Poiboi were names of note in our relations with the Lushais. Of the descendants of Lalienvunga, Lalhai may be mentioned; of Vuta-Laleya and of Mangpor-Lenkhunga, Khalkam, Lengpunga, Thanruma, Lalrima, and Thangula, all of whom, with the exception of the last mentioned, were sons or grandsons of Sukpilal, who died in 1880, and who at the time of his death was ruler over the whole of the Western Lushais.

The first attacks upon British territory made by the Lushais after their advance northwards were in November 1849, when almost at the same time a party of

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wood-cutters was massacred, a village of Tipperas was burnt and another was plundered in the Singla valley in Sylhet, west of the Chattachura range, and an attack was made by Mora, son of Lalienvunga, on three villages of refugee Thadoi Kukis within ten miles of the station of Silchar. To punish these outrages, the first expedition was led against the Lushais by Colonel Lister, who in January 1850 surprised and destroyed Mora's village, situated a little way south of the great peak of Nisapwi, between the Dhaleswari and the Sonai rivers. This expedition secured peace for many years. The Lushais gradually withdrew their advanced posts southwards and we ceased to have much communication with, or information about, them. A raid was committed in 1862 on Hill Tippera and South Sylhet near Adampur. This, two years later, was discovered to have been perpetrated by Sukpilal; but only negotiations followed. A meeting was held between the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar and Sukpilal's agents, and it was arranged that the captives taken should be surrendered, and that Sukpilal should receive an allowance for keeping the peace of the frontier. A similar arrangement was made with Vonpilal, son of Mora. But, although four of the captives were surrendered, these arrangements were never actually carried much further. In November 1868 the Eastern Lushais began a series of attacks on Manipur. In December of the same year Sukpilal carried his feuds with the Poitus into Sylhet. In January 1869, the tea garden of Noarband in Cachar was plundered and burned, several coolies being killed by Lalruma, son of Lalpunga and brother of Poiboi. On the 14th January, Dantau, son of Vonolel and brother of Lengkam and Lalbura, attacked the garden of Monierkhal, which he burned and plundered. In February a combined attack was made upon the Kala-Naga stockade in Manipur. It was determined to punish these outrages by an expedition, one portion of which was to go up the Dhaleswari river to attack Sukpilal, and another up the Sonai, while a Manipuri force was to march south and join the second. The season, however, was too late for effective measures, and the expedition was practically a failure. Emboldened by this result, a new series of attacks was planned by the Lushais in the cold weather of 1870-71. A new family now appeared on the scene. The Eastern Lushais of the family of Vonolel (Lalbura and Lengkam, his sons, and his nephew Thondong) led an attack on the Monierkhal stockade, the Bengali village of Nagdirgram, and the Nagas in Manipur, while the Howlongs of Lalpitang's house, who dwelt south of Sukpilal's Lushais, and the western Poitu Kukis raided down the Hailakandi valley, and attacked the tea garden of Alexandrapur, where they killed a number of coolies and the Manager, Mr. Winchester, and carried off his daughter and several other captives, besides much plunder. A subsequent attack on a neighbouring garden, Katlacherra, was repulsed. Upon this, it was determined to send a thoroughly effective expedition to march through the hills and exact reparation. Two columns were despatched in the cold weather of 1871-72, one from the Chittagong side, which marched northwards through the country of the Sylus and Howlongs and recovered the captives taken from Alexandrapur; and the other, *viâ* Tipaimukh, southwards into the country of Vonolel and his sons. This expedition was completely successful in procuring the submission of the chiefs, and satisfaction for the outrages; and from its termination no raid has been made on territory under the Assam Administration.

In 1889, however, a raid was made in the Chengri valley on the Chittagong frontier, and a number of captives were taken, whom the chiefs concerned (Lengpunga and his brother Zarok) declined to release. An expedition was accordingly undertaken in the cold weather of 1889-90. The main column marched through the Lushai Hills from Chittagong, and were met by a detachment of four hundred Military Police from Silchar. The captives were surrendered, but Lengpunga escaped for the time. His village was burnt, and the troops then left the country. Previous to this raid, the policy of Government since 1872 had been to maintain a line of outposts connected by patrol paths, and, while cultivating, as much as possible, friendly intercourse with the chiefs, to abstain from interfering in their internal affairs. It was now decided to endeavour to put down raids once for all by proving our power to occupy their country and by establishing military outposts in their midst. Two such outposts (at Aijal and Changsil) with a garrison of Military Police were established in the portion of the Lushai Hills bordering on the Cachar district, and Captain Browne was deputed thither as Political Officer. For a time, the Lushais appeared to have accepted the situation, and amongst other proofs of friendship, the leading chiefs attended a darbar held by Captain Browne, and killed a metna and swore an oath of friendship to the British Government. But the hopes thus raised were soon dissipated. Suddenly, without a word of warning, they rose in a body, attacked simultaneously the stockades at Aijal and Changsil, and killed Captain Browne, who was marching from Sairang to Changsil with a small escort of four sepoys. This was on the 10th September 1890.

Three days later a relieving force of two hundred Military Police left Silchar under Lieutenants Swinton and Tytler. Lieutenant Swinton was killed on the passage up the river Dhaleswari, whereupon Lieutenant Tytler assumed command, and reached Changsil and relieved the garrison under Lieutenant Cole, on the 28th September. The force at Changsil was further augmented by a detachment of two hundred men of the 40th Bengal Infantry under Lieutenant Watson, who arrived at Changsil on the 30th. Mr. McCabe, who had been deputed to Cachar on special duty, reached Changsil on the 5th October 1890, and on his arrival offensive operations were at once opened, with such success that within two months all but one of the Western Lushai chiefs had been arrested. The three ringleaders, Khalkam, Lengpunga, and Thangula, were deported, and the others were released on payment of the fines imposed on them. A few months later Khalkam and Lengpunga put an end to their existence by hanging themselves with ropes, which they had surreptitiously manufactured from their clothes.

These operations resulted in the complete pacification of the Northern Lushai villages west of the Sonai river, and the unconditional surrender of all the chiefs implicated in the rising, with the exception of Thanruma, who fled for refuge towards the east. At the beginning of 1891, the Lushais were peacefully employed in *jhuming* and in rebuilding their villages, many of which had been destroyed by our troops as a punishment. The feeling of insecurity which our operations had occasioned was beginning to wear off, and Lushais came readily to trade at the newly re-opened bazar at Changsil and to barter vegetables and live-stock with the garrison of Fort Aijal. Requisitions for the supply of coolies to work on roads and carry stores and baggage, etc., were promptly complied with by all the chiefs so requisitioned except Lalbura, and in consequence of his non-compliance, Mr. McCabe, with an escort of a hundred Military Police under Lieutenant Tytler, marched to his village, where he halted for the night. Next day, as Lalbura refused to come in, Mr. McCabe commenced collecting supplies and making other arrangements for halting in the village. Shortly afterwards three hundred armed Lushais were observed advancing towards the north crest of the hill commanding the camp. The Political Officer promptly ordered them to be fired on, and at once began to make dispositions for the defence of the camp. Before they could be completed, however, the Lushais attacked the camp from all directions, and set fire to the village. They were driven off, and the fortification of the camp was then proceeded with. Stores of paddy were collected from the jungle, where they had been hidden by the Lushais; a bridle path from Aijal to the Sonai was pushed on with great rapidity; and a reinforcement of a hundred Military Police was at once sent to Mr. McCabe's assistance from Aijal. The fact was recognised that it would be impossible to undertake punitive measures in a satisfactory way with the small force then available, and it was therefore decided to bring up three hundred men of the 18th Bengal Infantry from Silchar to hold Aijal and Changsil, and thus enable the whole of the Military Police stationed at those places to join the force with Mr. McCabe. In the meantime, skirmishing parties were sent out daily to disperse the Lushais in the neighbourhood of the camp and to search for further stores of paddy. The Lushais soon found that it was hopeless to try to take the camp, and confined themselves to ambuscading small parties.

Enquiries showed that Lalbura was assisted in his rising by all the Lushais east of the Sonai, and also probably by the Howlongs; but that the Western Lushais had profited by the lesson taught them in the preceding year, and had stood aloof. The attack at Lalbura's village took place on 1st March 1892. On the 10th April, the punitive force, consisting of two hundred and twenty-five men of the Military Police and seventy-five of the 18th Bengal Infantry under Captain Loch, left Aijal. Lalruya, Poiboi, Lalhai, Bungteya, Maite and other villages were occupied in turn, and all the chiefs submitted, except Lalbura, who fled, accompanied by only twenty followers, to the impenetrable jungles on the Manipur frontier. These operations were followed by the complete submission of the Eastern Lushais.

During the cold weather of 1892-93 a column from Aijal under Mr. Davis co-operated with a column from Lunglch to complete the punishment of the Howlong villages. No opposition was offered, and the two columns met at Kairuma's village. This chief complied with the demands then made upon him, but was subsequently recalcitrant, and it was necessary to make a military demonstration in his sphere of influence in the cold weather of 1895-96, before he would consent to pay up a fine which had been imposed upon him by the Political Officer for disobedience of orders.

In the course of the operations against the Eastern Lushais in 1892, the inconvenience resulting from the division of control over the Lushai country among the three Administrations of Assam, Bengal, and Burma had been found to be

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considerable, and after a lengthy discussion it was finally decided to transfer the Southern Lushai Hills, which had been previously controlled from Bengal, to Assam. The transfer was not actually effected till the 1st April 1898, when the North and South Lushai Hills were amalgamated as a district of the Assam Province, and placed in charge of an officer who is styled the Superintendent of the Lushai Hills. At the same time rules were framed, introducing a suitable and simple system of administration, in which the internal management of the Lushai villages is left to the chiefs, subject to the general control of the Superintendent and his Assistants, in whom the administration of civil and criminal justice is vested. Since the formation of the district, satisfactory progress has been made in the development of communications and the civilisation and pacification of the Lushais.

Formation of the Chief Commissionership.

104. By a proclamation dated the 6th February 1874, the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the Naga Hills, the Garo Hills, and the district of Cachar were separated from the administration of the Government of Bengal, and taken under the immediate authority and management of the Governor General in Council. By a notification of the same date they were formed into a Chief Commissionership, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Keatinge, V.C., C.S.I., being appointed the first Chief Commissioner. On the 12th September of the same year by another proclamation and notification Sylhet was incorporated with the province, and the only extensions of territory that have since taken place have been in the Naga and Lushai Hills. The territory included in the Mokokchang subdivision was annexed to the former district in 1889. As narrated in the preceding paragraph, the Northern Lushais were gradually brought under the control of the Assam Administration, and the South Lushai Hills were formally transferred from Bengal to Assam in 1898, when the Lushai Hills district was constituted and added to the province.

On the 16th of October 1905 the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam was formed by adding to Assam the Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions. The Chief Commissioner, Sir Bampfylde Fuller, was appointed the first Lieutenant-Governor of the new province, and held office until the 19th August 1906. He was succeeded by Sir Lancelot Hare, who was again succeeded, on the 23rd August 1911, by Sir Charles Bayley. In accordance with the proclamation made by His Imperial Majesty at Delhi on the 12th December 1911 Assam again became a separate province with effect from the 1st April 1912.

The following statement shows the officers who have filled the post of Chief Commissioner since the formation of the Chief Commissionership :—

Name.	From	To	Remarks.
1	2	3	4
Colonel R. H. Keatinge, V.C., C.S.I. ...	7th February 1874 ...	21st June 1878.	
Sir S. C. Bayley, K.C.S.I. ...	22nd June 1878 ...	1st March 1881.	
Mr. C. A. Elliott, C.S.I.	2nd March 1881 ...	7th July 1883.	
Mr. W. E. Ward	7th July 1883 ...	7th October 1883 ...	Officiating.
Mr. C. A. Elliott, C.S.I. ...	7th October 1883 ...	23rd February 1885.	
Mr. W. E. Ward	23rd February 1885...	31st October 1887 ...	Officiating.
Mr. D. Fitzpatrick, C.S.I. ...	31st October 1887 ...	15th July 1889.	
Mr. J. Westland, C.S.I.	15th July 1889 ...	22nd October 1889.	
Mr. J. W. Quinton, C.S.I. ...	22nd October 1889 ...	24th March 1891.	
Brigadier-General Sir H. Collett, K.C.B.	24th March 1891 ...	27th May 1891 ...	Officiating.
Mr. W. E. Ward, C.S.I. ...	27th May 1891 ...	15th July 1894.	
Mr. C. J. Lyall, C.S.I. ...	17th July 1894 ...	4th October 1894 ...	Officiating.
Mr. W. E. Ward, C.S.I. ...	4th October 1894 ...	27th November 1896.	
Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, C.S.I. ...	27th November 1896	1st May 1900.	
Mr. J. B. Fuller, C.I.E. ...	1st May 1900 ...	1st August 1900 ...	Officiating.
The Hon'ble Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, C.S.I.	1st August 1900 ...	29th April 1902.	
The Hon'ble Mr. J. B. Fuller, C.S.I., C.I.E.	29th April 1902 ...	16th October 1905 ...	Officating till 29th October, when he was confirmed.
The Hon'ble Sir Archdale Earle, K.C.I.E.	1st April 1912 ...	...	

SECTION 3.—From of Administration

General administrative system and staff.

105. The province of Assam is administered by a Chief Commissioner on behalf of the Governor General of India in Council. His Legislative Council consists of 24 members, of whom 11 are elected by various electorates, while 13 are nominated.

His general executive staff consists of (1) members of the Assam Commission, (2) members of the Provincial Civil Service, and (3) members of the Subordinate Civil Service.

The following are the cadre posts reserved for members of the Commission :—

Administration	Chief Commissioner	7
	Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner ...	
	Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner ...	
	Two Assistant Commissioners as Under-Secretaries ...	
	Commissioners of the Assam Valley Districts and the Surma Valley and Hill Districts.	
Deputy Commissioners (Heads of districts)		12
Assistant Commissioners		21
General ...	Inspector-General of Police	5
	Commissioner of Excise, Inspector-General of Registration and Registrar of Co-operative Societies.	
	Settlement Officer	
	Director of Land Records and Agriculture... ...	
	Political Agent in Manipur	
	Total	45

The number of appointments sanctioned to fill these posts is 48 (a reserve of 3 being allowed for posts under the Government of India and for deputations). The Assam cadre is a purely executive one.

The District and Sessions Judge of the Assam Valley Districts, and the District and Sessions Judge and the Additional District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet are officers of the Bengal cadre, whose services are lent by that Government.

The sanctioned strength of the Provincial Civil Service comprises 60 Extra Assistant Commissioners, who are appointed in accordance with rules framed by the Local Administration.

The Subordinate Civil Service is composed of 61 Sub-Deputy Collectors, distributed in five grades. The Sub-Deputy Collectors are recruited from among natives of the province, who fulfil a certain educational standard. These officers are chiefly employed on duties connected with the land revenue administration.

Powers of the Chief Commissioner.

On the first constitution of the province, Act VIII of 1874 was passed to provide for the exercise by the Chief Commissioner of executive powers. In September of the same year, on the addition of the district of Sylhet to the Chief Commissionership, Act XII of that year made the same provision in regard to that district. By these Acts, the powers which, on the date of the formation of the Chief Commissionership, and on that of the transfer to it of the district of Sylhet, were by virtue of any law or regulation vested in, or exercisable by, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal or the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, were transferred to, and vested in, the Governor General in Council ; and it was enacted that the Governor General in Council might from time to time delegate to the Chief Commissioner all or any of the said powers, and withdraw any powers so delegated.

By notification dated the 16th April 1874, the Government of India delegated to the Chief Commissioner all powers vested in the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal by the direct operation of any Act of the Governor General in Council, which also conferred the same powers on the Chief Commissioners of Oudh, the Central Provinces, and British Burma. By section 2, clause 10, Act I of 1868, all powers conferred upon a Local Government by any Act of the Governor General in Council in force in Assam, and passed subsequently to the constitution of the Chief Commissionership, vest in the Chief Commissioner. By the operation of this clause and the

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notification of the 16th April (and, in regard to Sylhet, a similar notification of the 12th September 1874) the Chief Commissioner has, in respect to all the general Acts of the Governor General in Council, the powers of a Local Government.

Other powers have, from time to time, been delegated to the Chief Commissioner under Acts VIII and XII of 1874 [or assumed under section 6(*c*) of Act XIV of the same year], and these, generally speaking, place him in the position of a Local Government in regard to most of the Regulations and Acts, whether of the Legislative Council of India or that of Bengal, in practical operation in the province.

General executive staff.

106. From the constitution of the province in 1874 down to 1880 there were no Commissioners in Assam. In June 1880 the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts was invested generally with the powers of a Commissioner of a Division in Bengal.

It was subsequently found necessary to relieve the Commissioner of his judicial functions, and in 1902 the separate appointment of Judge of the Assam Valley Districts was created. In October 1905 a second Commissionership was created for the Surma Valley and Hill Districts Division. This includes the districts of Sylhet and Cachar, and all the hill districts except the Garo Hills district, which was included within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts from the 1st September 1909.

Judicial staff.

107. The six districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, and the districts of Sylhet and Cachar, are subordinate to the High Court of Fort William in Bengal. For the whole of the Brahmaputsa Valley there is one District and Sessions Judge, whose headquarters are at Gauhati, but who holds sessions at the various district headquarters. The Deputy Commissioners of the six districts have the civil powers of Subordinate Judges, and the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners have the ordinary powers of Magistrates of the first, second, and third classes. In the Brahmaputra Valley the powers of a Munsif are exercised by one or more of these officers at each district and subdivisional headquarters.

In the Surma Valley a different system prevails. In Sylhet there is a separate judicial service, at the head of which is the District and Sessions Judge, aided by an Additional District and Sessions Judge and two Subordinate Judges and a staff of Munsifs for the disposal of civil cases. The Deputy Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioners, and the Extra Assistant Commissioners have here no civil powers, and exercise only the ordinary magisterial powers in criminal matters. In Cachar the District and Sessions Judge is the Judge of Sylhet, who holds sessions at Silchar when necessary; but as regards cases from the North Cachar Subdivision the Deputy Commissioner has the special criminal powers mentioned in sections 30 and 34 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Deputy Commissioner has the civil powers of a Subordinate Judge. The Additional Subordinate Judge of Sylhet visits the district of Cachar periodically, and hears most of the appeals from the decisions of the Extra Assistant Commissioners who exercise the powers of a Munsif, as well as all the more intricate civil suits. The Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners exercise the powers of Munsifs in addition to their functions as Magistrates and executive officers.

In the hill districts and certain frontier tracts (the North Cachar subdivision, the Mikir Hills tract in Nowgong, and the Dibrugarh frontier tract in Lakhimpur), the High Court possesses no jurisdiction except over European British subjects. The hill districts were formerly under the operation of the deregulationizing Act, XXII of 1869, which was repealed by the Scheduled Districts Act, XIV of 1874. Subsequently, the Frontier Tracts Regulation, II of 1880, was passed, under which power is given to the Chief Commissioner, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, to direct that any enactment in force in any frontier tract shall cease to be in force therein, and this Regulation (with the additional power of extension conferred by Regulation III of 1884) has been brought into force in all the hill districts and frontier tracts referred to above. Under its provisions, the operation of the enactments relating to Civil and Criminal Procedure, Court-fees, Stamps, Transfer of Property, and Registration, has been barred,* and a simpler system of administering justice in civil and criminal matters has been prescribed by rules framed under section 6 of the Scheduled Districts Acts, XIV of 1874. By these rules the Chief Commissioner is himself the chief appellate authority in civil and criminal cases. The Deputy Commissioner exercises the combined powers of District and Sessions Judge and Magistrate of a district, and the Assistant Commissioners and Extra Assistant Commissioners the powers of Magistrates and Munsifs. The judicial administration

* Except in cases when such enactments never were in force. The Civil Procedure Code, for instance, was never extended to the hill districts, and it was, therefore, unnecessary to include this in the declarations under Regulation II of 1880, which were issued in regard to these districts.

in all petty civil and criminal cases is usually carried on by village tribunals, presided over by headmen chosen from among the people themselves, whose procedure is completely free from legal technicalities, and whose proceedings are not reduced to writing. The Criminal Procedure Code is in force in the Eastern Duars in Goalpara, and that tract is, therefore, on the same footing as the plains district, so far as the administration of criminal justice is concerned. The Civil Procedure Code, however, is not in force. Its place is taken by rules under section 6 of Act XIV of 1874, which contain much the same provisions as the corresponding rules framed for the tracts that are under the operation of Regulation II of 1880.

Besides the judicial officer named above, there are a few Honorary Magistrates in nearly every district.

Revenue administration.

108. Up to the year 1886, Sylhet Proper was under the operation of the old Bengal Regulations and the other land revenue enactments in force in Bengal. In Jaintia and Cachar, and also, though to a less extent, in Goalpara, these enactments were generally followed, but they were not treated as actually in force. In the Brahmaputra Valley Proper, the settlement rules of the Board of Revenue had been replaced by local rules, which were revised and recast in 1883. In other respects the revenue law of Bengal was followed, so far as the local officers considered it to be applicable, but it was not treated as legally in force. All doubt and uncertainty were, however, removed by the enactment of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, I of 1886, which has been brought into force in all plains districts of the province. It contains all the necessary provisions of the revenue law of Bengal, the whole of which it repeals, so far as Assam is concerned. The Regulation was amended in some respects as regards the recovery of arrears of revenue by Regulation II of 1889, and its provisions regarding settlements, mutations, partitions, the recovery of arrears, etc., have been supplemented by rules issued under it and deriving from it the force of law. The superior authorities entrusted with the revenue administration have already been stated. They are the Chief Commissioner (as Local Government and Board of Revenue), the Commissioners of the Assam Valley Districts Division and the Surma Valley and Hill Districts Division, the Deputy Commissioner in each district, and the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners. Below these there are different subordinate officers in different districts. Each subdivision in the plains districts, except Goalpara, has a Sub-Deputy Collector, who is employed mainly upon supervision of the revenue establishments, upon surveying waste and cultivated lands (the extent and importance of this work in Assam will be seen from the following chapter), and the compilation of the revenue records and returns.

Goalpara is, for all practical purposes, a permanently-settled tract, and there are no *mufassil* revenue establishments except in the Eastern Duars; in the other districts of the Brahmaputra Valley the whole of the revenue is collected by contractors, called *mauzadars*, holding charge of the revenue assessment and collection within definite areas, called *mauzas*, into which these districts are divided. On the conclusion of the annual assessment (which will be described in a subsequent section), the *mauzadar* entered into a contract to pay into the treasury the revenue assessed, together with any additional revenue which might be assessed on lands subsequently taken up within the year for cold weather cultivation, irrespective of whether he succeeded in realising the full amount from the cultivators or not, and is remunerated by a commission calculated at 10 per cent. on the first Rs. 6,000 of the revenue and 5 per cent. on any amount above that sum.

At each subdivisional headquarters in Sylhet there is a collecting office, where the revenue is paid in and the accounts are made up. There are also *mufassil* collecting officers in certain temporarily-settled tracts, *viz.*, at Gowainghat and Kanairghat in Jaintia, Patharkandi, and at Hakaluki in Karimganj. Proceedings for the realisation of arrears (which are here generally recovered by means of a Sale Law) are taken at the subdivisions.

In the plains portion of Cachar also there are three collecting or *tahsil* establishments for receipt of the revenue. Two of these are located at the sadr and subdivisional headquarters, and the third at Katigora close to the Sylhet boundary.

In the hill districts, the general rule is that house-tax, and not land revenue, properly so called, is paid; but in the Garo Hills and a small area in the Jaintia and Naga Hills, there are tracts where land revenue is taken, and *mauzadars* are the agency employed for collection. The house-tax is, in the Garo, Jaintia, Naga Hills, and North Cachar and the few villages in the Khasi Hills which are British territory, collected and paid in by headmen, who, like the *mauzadars* of the Assam Valley, are remunerated by a commission. These officers are called *laskars* and *lakmas* in the

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Garo Hills, *dollois* and *sardars* in the Jaintia and Khasi Hills, *lambardars* in the Naga Hills, and *mauzadars* in North Cachar. In the Lushai Hills, the house-tax is collected and paid in by the village chiefs.

Land Records and Agriculture.

109. The Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture is a member of the Commission of the standing of Deputy Commissioner. His main duty is to supervise all survey and settlement operations, but he is also entrusted with the collection of trade and agricultural statistics, the management of survey schools, and other similar matters.

Police.

110. The Inspector-General of Police is a senior member of the Assam Commission of the standing of Deputy Commissioner. He has a Personal Assistant, who is on the graded list of Superintendents of Police. There are two distinct forces under the control of the Inspector-General. The Civil Police are entrusted with the maintenance of law and order and the prevention and detection of crime. The Military Police supply the garrisons for frontier outposts, and for the control of the Garo Hills, the Naga Hills, and the Lushai Hills. Both forces are subject to Act V of 1861, but for the Military Police there is in addition a special Regulation (the Assam Military Police Regulation No. IV of 1890, superseded in 1913 by Act III of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Council), which provides for the enforcement of due discipline, and assimilates generally the terms of service to those prevailing in the Indian Army. There are three battalions of Military Police :—

(1) The Lakhimpur Battalion, with headquarters at Dibrugarh ; (2) The Naga Hills Battalion, with headquarters at Kohima ; and (3) the Lushai Hills Battalion, with headquarters at Aijal. At Silchar in Cachar and at Tura in the Garo Hills there are detachments which formerly belonged to the Dacca Battalion, but have since been transferred to Assam.

At the close of the year 1911, the sanctioned strength of the Civil Police was 3,223 officers and men, and that of the Military Police 2,519 officers and men. The Civil Police in each of the plains districts are in charge of a Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent, or a Deputy Superintendent of Police. The Battalions of Military Police are commanded by military officers, whose services are temporarily lent.

There is a force of chaukidars or rural police in the districts of Sylhet, Cachar and Goalpara. All chaukidars are enlisted under Act VI (B. C.) of 1870. Their number in 1911 was 6,611, of whom 5,079 belonged to Sylhet, 580 to Cachar and 952 to Goalpara. The cost of this force for the year was Rs. 3,30,227, the whole amount of which was realised from the villagers.

In the districts of the Brahmaputra Valley other than Goalpara, where there are no rural police, mauzadars and mandals are required to give information of the commission of crime and to aid in detection, and in each village or group of hamlets there is a *gaonbura* or village headman, who is the recognised representative of the villagers in police matters.

Jails.

111. All headquarters stations except Tura have District Jails, and of these the most important are at Gauhati, Tezpur and Sylhet. There are subsidiary jails at the headquarters of all subdivisions in the plains except Hailakandi, Goalpara and Barpeta, where, as in the case of subdivisions in the hills, there are lock-ups only.

As a general rule, the Civil Medical Officer of the district is the Superintendent of the District Jail, but the jails at Dhubri, Kohima and Aijal are under the superintendence of the administrative officers of the district.

The Jail law of the province is Act IX of 1894, which was brought into force in supersession of Act XXVI of 1870. The Assam Jail Manual of 1899, consisting of rules and orders issued by the Local Administration and the Inspector-General of Prisons, has superseded the Bengal Jail Rules which were formerly in force in Assam.

Registration.

112. The Commissioner of Excise is also Inspector-General of Registration, and he holds besides the offices of Registrar of Joint Stock Companies under the Companies Act, Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages under Act VI of 1886, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Registrar of Provident Insurance Societies and Life Assurance Companies, and Superintendent of Stamps. All Deputy Commissioners are Registrars in their respective districts. In the Brahmaputra Valley and the Hill Districts the Sub-Registrars at district and subdivisional headquarters are Extra Assistant Commissioners who do this work in addition to their other duties. In the Surma Valley there are salaried Sub-Registrars and there are Special Sub-Registars at Sylhet and Silchar.

Excise.

113. Excise was, up to the close of the year under review, managed under the excise laws of Bengal, which had been extended to Assam. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Excise Act has been brought into effect from the 1st April 1912. The Excise Department was under the control of the Commissioner of Excise.

Education Department.

114. The Education Department is managed by a Director of Public Instruction. He is assisted by 2 Inspectors, 1 Inspectress, 1 Assistant Inspector, 20 Deputy Inspectors and 23 Sub-Inspectors of Schools.

Forest Department.

For administrative purposes the forest charges compose two circles, the Eastern and Western, each of which is under the control of a Conservator assisted by a staff of Deputy, Assistant, Extra Deputy, and Extra Assistant Conservators.

Public Works Department.

The staff of direction of the Public Works Department in Assam consists of Chief Engineer, who is also Secretary to the Chief Commissioner in that Department aided by an Under-Secretary. There is also a Superintending Engineer who is in charge of five Divisions. Two Divisions are under the direct control of the Chief Engineer.

The Executive staff consists of fourteen Executive and Assistant Engineers and two temporary Engineers. The Public Works in the Lushai Hills are in charge of the Superintendent of these Hills, who is assisted by an Upper Subordinate seconded from the regular cadre of the Public Works Department.

Medical and sanitary establishment.

115. The medical institutions of the province are supervised by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, who is also the Sanitary Commissioner of the province, and is the Chief Commissioner's adviser on sanitary and medical matters generally. The civil medical staff comprises nine Civil Surgeons belonging to the Indian Medical Service, each of whom, when on duty, holds charge of a district. The remaining districts are in charge of Medical Officers, who are usually either Military or Civil Assistant Surgeons. The Civil Surgeon at Sylhet is in charge of the Leper Asylum there, and the Civil Surgeon of Tezpur is also Superintendent of the only Lunatic Asylum in the province, which receives insane persons from the Assam Valley and the hill districts. Lunatics from the Surma Valley have hitherto been sent to the asylum at Dacca. But it is now proposed to receive them into the Tezpur Asylum from 1st April 1913. The Civil Surgeon of Dibrugarh is Superintendent of the Berry-White Medical School.

Imperial departments in the province.

116. The civil accounts of the province are in charge of a Comptroller, who is directly subordinate to the Financial Department of the Government of India. The Post Office Department is in charge of a Postmaster General, and the Telegraph Department in that of a Director. These officers are not subordinate to the Chief Commissioner.

Local Self-Government.

117. Besides the agency of Government officers, much assistance is given to the administration of the province by local bodies who administer funds raised under special enactments or placed at their disposal by the Chief Commissioner. These are either municipalities for town areas, or Local Boards for the district at large.

Municipalities.

118. There are eleven municipalities in the province, of which eight are constituted under Act III (B. C) of 1884, and the remainder under Act V (B. C.) of 1876. In addition to these, there are one Station and four Unions formed under Act V (B. C.) of 1876. In the Municipalities of Sylhet, Goalpara, Dhubri, Gauhati, Tezpur and Dibrugarh the elective system is in full force, and a system of election has also been introduced, at the instance of the ratepayers, for the choice of members to sit on the Committee at Silchar. The official members of all municipal committees are very few in number; and although the Chairmen are officials in all cases except that of the Sylhet Municipality, the Vice-Chairmen are usually non-officials.

Municipal income.

119. These bodies derive their income partly from taxation and partly from other sources. The taxation levied in municipalities is chiefly in the form of a tax on persons or buildings, a latrine tax and a water-rate (in Gauhati and Shillong) ; in stations the taxation is a house assessment, and in unions a tax on persons is levied. Other items of taxation are taxes on animals and wheeled vehicles. These taxes are levied under the provisions of the Act under which each municipality, etc., is constituted. No octroi or other duties are taken anywhere in the province. Of the other sources of income, the most important are the receipts from ferries [levied under the provisions of sections 148-156 of Act III (B. C.) of 1884, or sections 139-147 of Act V (B.C.) of 1876, as the case may be], from municipal pounds, the income from municipal markets, and the assignments from Provincial and Local Funds enjoyed by several municipalities. The last item consists of grants made in commutation of the land revenue of the town areas, which in the early days of the province was allowed to be appropriated to the improvement of the towns. In 1911-12 municipalities enjoyed an income of Rs. 5,32,508, of which Rs. 1,79,839 were derived from taxation, and had an expenditure of Rs. 4,12,757.

Local Boards.

120. The Local Boards, of which there is one for each plains subdivision, are constituted under executive orders. Each Local Board comprises from twelve to twenty-two members, of whom four are officials, and the remainder non-official residents of the subdivision. In tea districts, a proportion of the non-official members are tea planters, the remainder being natives of India. The planter members are in all cases elected by the planting community, and a certain number of the native members also are chosen by election, the rest being nominated by the Chief Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner of the district or the Subdivisional Officer, as the case may be, is *ex-officio* Chairman of the Board. In each subdivision the Local Board is entrusted with the maintenance of all roads in the subdivision, except a few main lines of communication, and also with the management of primary education, subject to the general control of the Education Department. It is also empowered to make grants-in-aid to schools of higher grade, subject to rules which have been laid down. The Boards also deal with the administration of and expenditure on village sanitation, dispensaries, and vaccination. For these purposes, the Boards have placed at their disposal the rate which is levied under the Assam Local Rates Regulation of 1879, at the rate of one anna per rupee on the annual value of lands, as well as the surplus income of pounds and ferries, and some minor receipts. This income is supplemented by annual grants from Provincial Funds, the amounts of some of which are fixed. The annual budgets of the Boards are submitted to the Commissioner for sanction. The Local Board may itself sanction any work, the estimated cost of which does not exceed Rs. 2,500, but the professional approval of the Inspector of Local Works must be obtained when the cost exceeds Rs. 1,000. The execution of important works requiring much professional skill is entrusted to the Executive Engineer, less important works being entrusted to the Board overseers, and in the tea districts much assistance is rendered by planters in carrying out work for the Local Boards. A draft Act designed to place the constitution of the Boards on a legal footing, and to extend their powers, is now under consideration.

Immigration and labour inspection.

121. This section would not be complete without a reference to the system under which labour has hitherto been imported from other parts of India for the Assam tea gardens and the treatment of labourers under contract has been regulated and controlled. The indigenous population of Assam consists almost entirely of petty cultivators, and contains no labouring class which is compelled to resort regularly to employment for hire as a means of subsistence. The tea industry, therefore, ever since its establishment in the province, has been obliged to import labour from other parts of India. This immigration has done much towards opening out and colonising the fertile and sparsely-peopled districts of Assam, while relieving other provinces of a portion of their surplus population. The principal areas of recruitment are at present the Plains Districts of the United Provinces and Bengal, Chota Nagpur, the Sonthal Parganas, and the Central Provinces. The classes which furnish emigrants are extremely ignorant, and the interference of Government is required to secure that they are not imposed upon, while, during transport between their homes and the place of labour, supervision is necessary to prevent overcrowding, disease, and consequent mortality. Under the changed conditions of life and especially of climate and food, which the new country imposes, the immigrant is peculiarly liable to sickness, often fatal in its results, and it is thus needful that the provision of the requisite comforts, medical attendance and other appliances for his well-being should be enforced by law. On the other hand, some regulation of the contract between the labourer and his employer, and some more effectual means of enforcing it than a civil action, was held to be demanded by justice. It costs a large sum to import a coolie into Assam; the provisions for his comfort, which the law requires, are also expensive; and it seemed only equitable that the law should provide the employer with the means of obtaining the due fulfilment of the contract by the coolie, whose only capital is his labour, and who ought not to be allowed capriciously to withdraw himself from the service of the person who has paid for his introduction. On these grounds it was early found necessary to legislate, on the one hand, for the enforcement of labour contracts by special penalties and on the other for ensuring the proper treatment of the labourer,—a penal labour law and Government protection for the labourer being correlative terms.

122. The first Labour Act was passed in 1863, and since then the law on the subject has been changed by successive enactments. The last of these was Act VI of 1901, which is still in force. It fixes the maximum term of the labour contract at four years, and prescribed a minimum monthly wage, the payment of which is contingent on the completion of a daily task by the labourer. Labourers under contract deserting are liable to fine and imprisonment. It provides for the grant of

subsistence allowance to weak and sickly labourers, for the provision of suitable house accommodation, water-supply, and medical attendance, and also for the inspection of estates, the control of task rates, the cancellation of contracts in case of ill-usage by employers, and the closing of unhealthy estates to contract labour. The executive administration of the Act is entrusted to the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers of tea districts, who are *ex-officio* Inspectors of Labourers. The Civil Medical Officers of tea districts, and certain District and Assistant Superintendents of Police and Assistant Commissioners, have also been appointed Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Labourers under the Act. The legislation embodied in Act VI of 1901 was undertaken in consequence of complaints received as to the prevalence of malpractices in connection with recruitment, and it was further hoped that the excessive cost of importing labour, which was believed to be due to the operations of contractors for the supply of labourers and of the recruiters employed by them, would be reduced.

The Act brought the operations of contractors under greater control, and favoured the employment of garden sardars, or coolies sent from the gardens to their native districts, commissioned to recruit other labourers in the neighbourhood of their homes. It raised the minimum wages payable to labourers under contract, fixing these at Rs. 5 a month for a man and Rs. 4 a month for a woman for the first three years of the contract term, and Rs. 6 for a man and Rs. 5 for a woman for the fourth year. Contracts made after the 1st April 1903 provided for the payment of not less than Rs. 5-8 a month for a man and Rs. 4-8 a month for a woman in the second and third years of the contract term.

In 1906 a Committee was appointed to enquire into labour conditions, and as the result of their recommendations the Act was considerably modified. The right of private arrest was withdrawn, and it is no longer permissible for labourers to enter into labour contracts locally. The labour districts provisions of the Act have been declared to be no longer in force in the Surma Valley and in the districts of Goalpara and Kamrup. It follows that no persons recruited for gardens in these areas can be placed under contract, while in the four upper districts of the Assam Valley all labourers imported under contract became free on the expiry of the term for which they engaged, and cannot enter into new labour contracts under the Act. Special concessions have been given to garden sardars working under the control of local agents belonging to approved Associations, and all coolies recruited by such sardars, as well as those recruited by special sardars under Section 90 of the Act, go up free to the Assam Valley. Only coolies recruited by contractors, and by garden sardars who do not work under one of the privileged Associations, are now placed under contract. The whole labour force in the Surma Valley is free, in that there are no labour contracts under the Act, and even in the upper districts of the Assam Valley the substitution of free for indentured labour is well nigh complete. The Government of India have announced their intention of withdrawing the labour districts provisions of the Act at no distant date from the whole of Assam, and the question of the extent to which the present restrictions on recruitment can then be relaxed is now under consideration.

The gradual disuse of the penal provisions of Act VI of 1901 has been accompanied by a growing use of Act XIII of 1859. This Act, which is popular alike with employers and with labourers, provides penalties for breach of the contract, but does not regulate its terms in any way, or contain any special provisions for the protection of the labourer.

SECTION 4.—Character of Land Tenures and System of Settlement and Survey.

123. The ordinary land tenures vary considerably in different parts of Assam. Distinct systems of tenure are found in—

(1) Assam Proper,
(2) Goalpara,
(3) Sylhet,
(4) Cachar,
(5) The hill districts,

while several varieties of special waste land tenures, granted by Government at different periods, exist in all the plains districts.

Assam Proper raiyatwari tenure.

124. There are three main classes of ordinary tenure in the Assam Valley, exclusive of Goalpara, *viz.*, *raiyatwari*, *nisf-khiraj* and *lakhiraj*. The *raiyatwari* tenure is of the simplest character: the raiyat holds an annual or periodic lease from Government, being free to relinquish the whole or any part of his holding, which is separately

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assessed, provided that notice is given to the revenue officers at the proper time of the year and in the manner prescribed. Any waste unoccupied land may also be taken up for cultivation without notice or application, and, when so taken up, is settled with the occupant. Large areas of land are annually relinquished and taken up in this way in those parts of the valley where fluctuating cultivation is practised. These are chiefly the inundated tracts in the nighbourhood of the Brahmaputra, which comprise extensive areas of culturable waste land, covered with high grass and reeds, which can be reclaimed without difficulty. In these areas, the most profitable system of cultivation is that under which land is cropped for not more than three years in succession, usually with *ahu* rice and mustard, and is then left fallow for a term of years. Fluctuating cultivation also occurs in the thinly-peopled submontane tracts. In the intervening regions where population is more dense, and *sali* rice is grown, settled land is seldom relinquished, and in normal times there is a steady extension of permanent cultivation with the growth of population. Prior to 1870, all *raiyatwari* lands were held on annual leases, but in that year a set of rules for the encouragement of ten-year leases was sanctioned by the Bengal Government, expressly declaring that holdings so settled should be heritable and transferable, on condition of the transfer being registered in the Deputy Commissioner's office, while holders on annual *patta* were left without any legal assurance on these points. The principle of these rules was afterwards embodied in the Land and Revenue Regulation of 1886, which confers a permanent, heritable and transferable right on persons holding land under a lease the term of which is not less than ten years, but recognises no rights beyond those expressed in the lease in the case of annual tenants. The rules of 1870 remained practically inoperative until 1883, when they were recast, and a general system of ten-year settlements was introduced in all parts of the Assam Valley, where the cultivation and occupation of land are of a permanent character. In the five districts of Assam Proper, the bulk of the more permanently-cultivated land is, therefore, now held under a periodic settlement, during the currency of which the raiyat is guaranteed against enhancement of the revenue rates. He is at liberty to relinquish the whole or any portion of his holding as stated above, and to take up new lands; while he is entitled to receive compensation from Government for any lands taken up for a public purpose. The rest of the area, where a fluctuating system of cultivation prevails, is resettled annually on the basis of actual occupation; and, if dispossessed by Government for a public purpose, the raiyat is only entitled to compensation for the value of any trees, houses, crops, etc., actually standing on the land at the time of its resumption, but not to compensation for the land itself.

Nisf-khiraj and lakhiraj estates.

125. The holders of *nisf-khiraj* and *lakhiraj* lands enjoy an assignment, respectively, of half and the whole of the assessable land revenue: in addition they hold their lands in a proprietary right which is at present unfettered by any tenancy law. These tenures originated in alienations, whether of land or of the revenue or service dues upon land, that had been made by former rulers of the country for religious and other purposes. On the lands now held as *nisf-khiraj* the last Ahom ruler, Chandra Kanta Singh, imposed a tax, called *kharikatana*, of 5 annas a *pura* (equivalent to $1\frac{1}{3}$ acres), which continued to be levied by the Burmese invaders after their conquest of the country. When Assam became British by conquest, all these grants were held to have lapsed; but Mr. Scott retained the moderate assessment which he found in force upon them, adding later on 2 annas a *pura*, so that the whole assessment came, as left by him, to 8 annas a *pura*. In 1834 the Government directed that a full enquiry should be made into all claims to hold land rent-free as *debottar*, *dharmottar*, or on any other plea, throughout the district of Assam. Captain Bogle was appointed to make this enquiry, subject to the control and orders of the Commissioner, Captain Jenkins. Another officer, Captain Matthie, was also similarly employed. At the same time the following principles were laid down for the guidance of these officers:—

(1) All rights to hold land free of assessment, founded on grants by any former Government, were to be considered as cancelled; and it was pointed out that any claims for restoration to any such tenures could rest only on the indulgence of Government.

(2) All lands found to be held in excess of what was held and possessed under *bonâ fide* grants prior to the Burmese conquest, or for services no longer performed, as well as all lands held for services no longer performed, were to be assessed at full rates.

(3) All lands, held on *bonâ fide* grants before the Burmese conquests, or for services still performed, were to be reported to Government; on receipt of the report special orders would be issued on each case.

(4) Captain Jenkins might in his discretion suspend the orders for bringing any particular land on full rates; but he was to submit his reasons for the consideration of Government.

(5) Pending the *lakhiraj* enquiry, Mr. Scott's moderate rates were to be levied as before on all lands claimed as *lakhiraj* (whether as *debottar*, *brahmottar*, *dharmottar* or on whatever plea) until brought under assessment at full rates, or until orders to the contrary were received from Government.

The work was commenced in 1834, but was not concluded till 1860, and in the lapse of time these orders were altogether forgotten. Instead of referring the cases, which came before him, for the orders of Government, General Jenkins dealt with them in a manner which was not authorised by his instructions. He drew a distinction between *debottar* or temple lands, and other grants, such as *brahmottar* (personal grants to Brahmans for religious services), *dharmottar* (grants to religious communities other than temples, or for pious uses), etc. In the case of the first, when he found the grants to be *bonâ fide* and valid, he confirmed them as revenue-free, without, as he was ordered, referring the case to superior authority. In all other cases of *bonâ fide* and valid grants, he simply confirmed the grantee in possession, and directed that, as ordered in his instructions, the land should be assessed as before, *i.e.*, at Mr. Scott's favourable rates of 8 annas a *pura*, pending the final orders of Government on the whole question. Where the land held was not found to be held under a *bonâ fide* and valid grant, it was resumed and settled at full rates, which in those days were Re. 1 a *pura*. But no reference was ever made to Government on the conclusion of the proceedings; and thus until 1861, when the revenue rates were raised throughout Assam, the second class of lands continued to be assessed at rates which, though this was not expressly intended, were, as a matter of fact, half the rates prevailing for other lands.

The matter was then allowed to rest till 1872, when a long correspondence began, which was not finally closed till 1879. It was considered by the Government of India that the grantees having so long been suffered to hold at half rates, it would not be judicious to make any alteration in their status; and so General Jenkins' unauthorised action was condoned. These half-rate holders were at that time called, equally with the revenue-free holders, *lakhirajdars*. The term *nisf-khirajdar* was adopted in 1871, as a more accurate description of their status as landholders liable to be assessed at only half the current rates of revenue, whatever these may happen to be.

A *nisf-khirajdar* now enjoys the further privilege of holding the waste land of his estates free of revenue unless he derives a regular income from it.

Three-fourths of the total number of *nisf-khiraj* estates are situated in the district of Kamrup and date from the last period of Ahom rule, when the seat of Government had been transferred from Garhgaon to Gauhati, and the Ahom kings gave away lands wholesale with all the zeal of recent converts to Hinduism. The *lakhiraj* or *debottar* grants, on the other hand, are usually of older date, the most ancient being ascribed to kings Dharmapal and Vanamala, who are believed to have reigned about the eighth century A. D.

The other special tenures in Assam Proper are *chamuas*, *khats*, ten-twenties, and six-pie *lakhiraj* tenures. A *chamua* is simply a large holding under Government, the land being held at ordinary rents. The *chamuadar* has the privilege of paying the revenue direct into the treasury instead of through the local fiscal officer, and is granted a commission of 10 per cent. on the total demand. There is now only one such tenure in Assam. There are four *khats*, *viz.*, 1 in Nowgong, 1 in Lakhimpur, 2 in Kamrup. In two of these *khats* the *khatdar* is simply in the position of the ordinary mauzadar, but in the other two the *patta* is issued to the *khatdar*, and not to the cultivators direct. These *khats* are all assessed on cultivation only at ordinary *khirai* rates. In Nowgong the concession of 10 per cent. commission which was personal to the predecessor of the present *khatdar* has now lapsed. In the Lakhimpur district there has been an increase in area of 144 *bighas*, in revenue of Rs. 333, due to extension of cultivation. Ten-twenties are also tenures which are settled at ordinary rates, their only privilege being that when the land revenue exceeds Rs. 20 half of the total demand is remitted, but when the revenue is between Rs. 10 and Rs. 20, the remission is restricted to half the amount by which it exceeds Rs. 10. There are 4 such estates in Sibsagar. The six-pie *lakhiraj* estates consist of nine holdings covering about 2,755 acres of land, which pay a revenue of 6 pies per *bigha* of cultivated land, this being the amount of blackmail originally given by the owners to the hill tribes. These estates are to be found only in the districts of Darrang and Lakhimpur.

The *nisf-khiraj* and *lakhiraj* estates are, like the *chamuas* and *khiraj khats* already mentioned, ordinarily cultivated by sub-tenants, who, when their superior landlord is (as is generally the case) a religious institution, are known as *paiks* or *bhakats* of the temple or *satra*.

Goalpara.

126. What is known as the permanently-settled portion of Goalpara consists of nineteen permanently-settled estates and eight small temporarily-settled holdings. These between them cover the whole district, excluding the Eastern Duars. Nine of the nineteen permanently-settled estates are those of the border *Chaudhuris*. The remaining ten consist for the most part of lands originally held revenue-free on invalid titles which were resumed in consequence, and settled at a *jama* fixed in perpetuity. The eight temporarily-settled estates include five *chars*, which are farmed yearly to the highest bidder. Of the remaining three, two are resumed *lakhiraj*, and the third was acquired by Government as a free gift from the zamindar.

Eastern Duars.

127. The Eastern Duars comprise five separate tracts, *viz.*, Bijni, Sidli, Chirang, Riphu, and Guma. The last three are the exclusive property of Government, and are managed on the same system as the *raiyatwari* tracts of Assam Proper, the only difference being that in the greater number of the estates cultivation is entirely on annual leases, and that the revenue rates are lower than those prevailing in Assam. Bijni and Sidli, with the exception of the submontane forests which have been excluded from them and brought under conservancy, are the estates of the Rajas of the same names. The Sidli estate is under the management of Government, the Raja receiving 20 per cent. of the rental as *malikana*: but the Bijni Duar was settled with the Rani for ten years in 1901, at a revenue of 80 per cent. of the estimated rental of the estate in that year, and the settlement, which expired on 31st March 1911, has been extended pending proposals for resettlement. An application from the Raja of Sidli to be allowed to manage the Duar of that name is also under consideration.

Sylhet.

128. The land tenures in the district of Sylhet (excluding Jaintia, which was not annexed to the district until 1835) present a remarkable contrast to those of all the districts of the permanently-settled Bengal, except Chittagong. In no other district was the permanent settlement preceded, as in these, by a survey; in no other district were the zamindars passed over at that settlement in favour of the superior raiyats or middlemen called *mirasdars* or *talukdars** (*cf.* the Chittagong *tarafdars*). The consequence of the survey is that all lands within the surveyed portion of the district which were settled in 1791-92, the date of the decennial settlement, and have not since been specially settled in perpetuity, are the property of Government and held under temporary settlement. The result of the settlement having been made with a large number of middlemen is that, while in the districts of permanently-settled Bengal estates are counted by tens or hundreds, in Sylhet they are counted by thousands, and the individual revenue of each estate is generally very small. Thus Sylhet is distinguished (1) by the large proportion of its area which is not permanently-settled, and (2) by the extremely small payments of revenue due from individual estates, which make the collection (in the absence of *mufassal* revenue establishments entertained nowhere in permanently-settled districts) a peculiarly difficult and complicated task.

Permanently-settled tenures.

129. The permanently-settled tenures of Sylhet are all held on the same conditions, but have received the names given below with reference to their revenue history:—

(1) *Dassana*, estates included in the decennial settlement of 1791-92, which in 1793 became permanent.

(2) *Bazyafti Daimi*, lands resumed by the Special Commissioner appointed under Regulation III of 1828, and then permanently-settled.

(3) *Ilam*, lands settled permanently (see below under temporarily-settled estates).

(4) *Khas Daimi*, permanently-settled estates purchased by Government at sales for arrears of revenue and sold again as permanently-settled.

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* This does not apply to (1) parganas Taraf, Bamai, and Putijuri, forming zila Laskarpur in the Habiganj subdivision, which were transferred to Sylhet from the Dacca and Mymensingh districts after the assessment for the decennial settlement had been effected, and (2) certain parganas in the Sunamganj subdivision which could not be surveyed on account of difficulties with the Khasis. In other parts of Sylhet also the settlement was occasionally made with the zamindars, and not with the raiyats.

(5) *Halabadi.*—The term *halabadi* literally means "recently cultivated," but in Sylhet it is applied to all lands not included in the decennial settlement of 1791-92. The so-called *halabadi* (also known as *abadi* or *jangal abadi*) *pattas* or *sanads* were granted between the years 1791 and 1807. They contained no express limitation of the term of settlement, and in 1869 were held by Government to have been settlements in perpetuity.

(6) *Khas halabadi*, estates belonging to class (5) which, having been bought in by Government at sales for arrears of revenue, have been resettled permanently.

(7) *Permanently-settled waste-land grants.*—The proprietors of three *halabadi* estates paying a revenue of Rs. 9-5-3 claimed a large tract in the Raghunandan Hills. Their claims were compromised by the grant in perpetuity of two estates covering an area of 1,659 acres and paying a revenue of Rs. 9-6-0.

(8) *Dhali Mujrai mahals*, exempted from assessment on condition of the holders furnishing *dhali* servants for the Sylhet Collectorate. At present five such servants are furnished.

Temporarily-settled tenures.

130. The temporarily-settled estates of Sylhet are also known under different names, but by far the most extensive class, excluding the Jaintia parganas referred to in the next paragraph, is that called *ilam*. In consequence of the success met with in Behar in bringing under assessment land not included in the decennial settlement which afterwards became permanent, the *pargana patwaris* were, in 1802, directed to prepare and submit schedules of land in their respective *parganas* which had not been included in that settlement. On receipt of these schedules, the Collector issued proclamation (*ilams*) inviting claimants to any of the lands to come forward, but no one appeared to claim them. These lands have thus acquired the names of *ilam* or proclaimed lands. During the years 1829 to 1834, these *ilam* lands were surveyed, and in 1835 those that were found cultivated were settled with the occupants if willing to engage; otherwise they were farmed. The term of the first settlement was ten years for cultivated and fifteen years for jungle lands, and it was subsequently renewed on its expiry for successive further periods. In 1869 a systematic survey was commenced, and revised rules of settlement and a form of *patta* were drawn out. These rules were again revised in 1875 and modified in 1876. The resettlement commenced in 1871, and was practically concluded in 1881. On resettlement, all waste lands, in excess of one-fifth of the cultivated area of an estate, were, as a rule, excluded from the settlement. In order to protect the rights of Government in these excluded lands and to prevent encroachment by the neighbouring permanent settlement-holders, a special form of farming lease was sanctioned in 1889. The settlement of *ilam* estates under the rules of 1869—1876 was made so as to expire on different dates, but with the exception of certain estates, which were settled with tea planters on special terms and the Pratabgarh tenures to be mentioned subsequently, all *ilam* leases in the district had run out by the 31st March 1896. The leases were, however, extended pending the completion of resettlement operations undertaken in that year, till the 1st of April 1902, from which date the ordinary *ilam* lands have been resettled on leases for 20 years.

The *raiyatwari* tract of Pratabgarh in the south of the Karimganj subdivision, comprising an area of 36 square miles, was originally composed of *ilam* estates, which were settled with bodies of cultivators in 1875—1878. The settlement, however, broke down as the lessees were men of little substance, who quarrelled among themselves, and a *raiyatwari* settlement was extended from year to year pending a fresh survey, which was not completed till 1893. Another five years' settlement was then made, which expired in 1898, but was extended till the 1st April 1902, when the tract was settled for 20 years along with the ordinary *ilam* estates.

So much of the *ilam* area, as was not included in the settlements of 1835 and subsequent years, has been entered in the waste land register as waste at the disposal of Government; much of it has been taken up by tea planters on the waste land tenures to be hereafter described.

The rest of the temporarily-settled area in Sylhet, outside the Jaintia parganas, falls apart into two divisions: first, the small tenures settled on the same principle as *ilam* lands, but different in their origin; and, secondly, the areas held *khas* by Government, in which, instead of making over definitely the use and occupancy of the land to a settlement holder who may eventually become a middleman, the Government has retained the management in its own hands, and deals directly with the cultivators.

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The first class is technically known by the following names:—

(1) *Nankar patwarigari.*—Lands formerly held by the *pargana patwaris* as *nankar*, *i.e.*, in lieu of salary. The *patwaris* were abolished in 1833, and the lands were ordered to be assessed in 1835.

(2) *Char bharat.*—Alluvial accretions, which in Sylhet all belong to the State.

(3) *Bil-bharat.*—The silted-up beds of *bils*, which were excluded from the permanent settlement because they were then useless.

(4) *Ijad.*—Surplus lands discovered after the permanent settlement (but not formally proclaimed as the *ilam* lands were) and thus not included in it.

(5) *Resumed revenue-free land.*—Resumed because found to be held on invalid titles.

The *khas* lands in Sylhet are, for the most part, former *ilam* estates, the settlement of which has for various reasons broken down. In some cases the holders as a body refused to accept resettlement with joint responsibility; other estates have been bought in by Government at sales for arrears of revenue; in other cases, again, the settlement has been cancelled for default in payment of revenue. These estates are managed upon principles similar in general to the *raiyatwari* settlement of Assam Proper. Certain fixed rates are laid down, and rayats are free to take up land when they please at those rates, after application to the tahsildars.

In addition to the above, the term "*khas*" included also petty permanently-settled estates of little value, bought in by Government at sales for arrears of revenue and not resettled in perpetuity.

Estates in classes (1) to (5) were settled under orders issued in a Resolution of the Government of Bengal in 1871. The settlements were made so as to expire on different dates, the latest extending till the year 1907, and are now being resettled. Those estates of which the settlement had expired before the 1st April 1902 were resettled for 20 years from that date along with *ilam* estates, and some others, whose term expired in 1903 to 1905, were settled in 1904 on the same principles.

Jaintia parganas.

131. The Jaintia parganas have, since they first came under British rule, been temporarily settled.* The first regular settlement was made in 1838—1840, when the tract was professionally surveyed and measured. It was made for a term of five years, at the end of which it was further extended for ten years, and then again extended, so that the settlement of the whole area expired in 1856. In that year the tract was resettled, without remeasurement, for twenty years. This settlement expired in 1876, but revised rates were not imposed till 1879, and the settlement, then made, remained in force till 1898, when the parganas were resettled for a term of 15 years.

Lakhiraj estates.

132. Besides these permanently and temporarily-settled estates in Sylhet, there are, as in other districts, valid *lakhiraj* or revenue-free estates. These include the following:—

(1) One hundred and seventy-seven grants, covering an area of 20,037 acres, which were declared valid after resumption proceedings under Regulations II of 1819 and III of 1828.

(2) Six thousand seven hundred and seventy-five petty grants, mostly under 10 *bighas* in area, which were exempted from assessment under order of the Bengal Government in 1841. The area of these grants aggregates 9,681 acres.

(3) Two thousand three hundred and sixty-eight redeemed estates, covering an area of 3,373 acres, consisting of *ilam* estates paying a revenue of Re. 1 and under, which were sold at auction revenue-free, and other estates redeemed on payment of twenty or twenty-five times the annual revenue.

(4) One grant, fee-simple or commuted to fee-simple with an area of 1,878 acres.

(5) *Kasba* Estates in Sylhet.—These estates are nominally all less than 10 *bighas* in extent, but many, as a matter of fact, greatly exceed this area. This anomaly probably originated through fraud, but it would be difficult, if, not impossible, to rectify it now. Though not assessed to land revenue, they are not, however, treated as *lakhiraj* and are not entered in the Register of Revenue-Free Estates. The *thak* area of the *kasba* is 4,560 acres.

* With the exception of 33 permanently-settled and 29 revenue-free estates. The former consist of lands claimed as revenue-free, but resumed by the Special Commissioner appointed under Bengal Regulation III of 1828 and subsequently permanently settled.

133. When Cachar was annexed in 1830, Government stepped into the position of the Raja as absolute owner of the soil. The great bulk of the land is held either (1) revenue-free under fee-simple and commuted grants taken up for special cultivation, or (2) on *jangalbari* or waste-land reclamation leases for periods of 20 or 30 years at progressive rates, or (3) at ordinary rates on what was formerly known as the *mirasdari* tenure, under which bodies of men often of different castes and religions combined together to break up waste land for which they received an *ijmali patta*, imposing upon them joint responsibility for the revenue. The system of joint ownership was found, however, to be a source of inconvenience to the settlement-holders, as well as to the Government, and at the resettlement of the district, which was effected in 1900 for a term of 15 years, these co-parcenary *mahals* were broken up and separate leases were issued to the individual settlement-holders. Cachar.

There are a few *lakhiraj* or revenue-free estates in Cachar, being the grants held by dependents of the old royal family, or dating from the time of native rule. These are known as *baksha* lands, and are revenue-free only so long as they remain in possession of the grantee and his heirs; when alienated, they are liable to assessment like other *mirasdari* lands. Considerable areas are also held for special cultivation under the old Waste Land Rules, the Rules of 1876, and Section I of the Settlement Rules.

134. In the hill districts there is no land revenue settlement properly so called, except in a few isolated tracts. The strip of plains land, which encloses the Garo Hills on three sides, is managed on the system of settlement which obtains in Assam Proper, save in one portion, where the zamindars of Mechpara hold certain land as part of their permanently-settled estates, and manage it themselves. The terms of tenure are similar to those of the annual *patta* holders of Assam. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, a class of land, known as *raihali* in the Jaintia Hills subdivision, has since the year 1886 been assessed to land revenue under special rules, the rate charged being 12 annas per *bigha*. In the rest of these districts, Government does not assess the land, but the houses. Each village, however, in the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia, and Naga Hills has its own known lands, in which rights of private ownership are recognised to a degree which seems surprising in so primitive a state of society. The system of cultivation by *jhum*, which prevails throughout the greater part of this area, demands long periods of rest during which the land becomes reclothed with forest; and it is often difficult to believe that what seems an uncared-for wilderness is really jealously guarded private property of a clan, family or village. But the case is so; and no quarrels have been more enduring or more bitter among these people than those relating to land. The customs of land tenure among these primitive races are often strangely complicated and full of interest; but it is impossible to describe them at length here. The practice of taxing houses, instead of assessing the land, prevails also in certain remote parts of the plains districts, such as the North Cachar subdivision and the Mikir Hills in Nowgong, while from the Miris in Lakhimpur and the Tipperas in Sylhet a poll-tax is collected in lieu of land revenue. Hill districts.

135. The professional revenue survey of the plains districts of the province was undertaken while these districts formed part of Bengal, and was brought to a conclusion shortly after the formation of the Chief Commissionership. In this survey village boundaries where they existed, and the boundaries of certain tea grants and revenue-free estates, as well as the geographical and topographical features of the country, were mapped usually on the scale of 4″ to a mile, but, except in the Jaintia Parganas and Cachar, no field survey was made, and the results were of little practical use for revenue purposes. In the permanently-settled portion of Sylhet, the survey was preceded in the years 1859—1865 by a demarcation of the boundaries of villages and estates by non-professional agency, in the course of which maps of the estates were prepared by chain and compass on the scale of 16″ to a mile, and these maps, inaccurate though they are in many respects, afford the most recent record of the boundaries of estates in that area. A cadastral survey, based on a regular professional traverse of the portions of the Assam Valley where most cultivation was to be found, was commenced in 1883 and completed in 1893, and similar cadastral surveys of the *raiyatwari* portions of Sylhet and Cachar have been effected for resettlement purposes in subsequent years. The field maps of these surveys are on the scale of 16″ to a mile. Surveys.

While the cadastral survey of a portion of the Assam Valley districts was in progress, the opportunity was taken to train the local mandals in surveying with the plane-table, and after the professional party had left the valley, certain additional areas were surveyed cadastrally by local agency on the basis of plane-table traverses in successive years. It was subsequently decided that all such extension surveys should be made on the basis of theodolite traverses, and in 1899 a professional Survey

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Detachment was maintained in Assam and was charged with the duty of preparing traverses for further cadastral surveys which the extension of cultivation necessitated, as well as with correcting and bringing up to date the topographical details in the standard district maps, and with minor survey operations, undertaken in the province, which required professional skill. The detachment merged in the separate Survey Department formed under a Director of Surveys for the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam from 1909-10, and its functions were performed by that Department until the 31st March 1912. There is just now one Survey Department for Bengal and Assam which temporarily performs all the above duties in respect of this province; the question of future arrangements is under consideration.

Whenever an area has been brought under cadastral survey arrangements have been made for having the maps and other records kept as far as possible up to date and permanent marks looked after by the agency of mandals in the Brahmaputra Valley and patwaris in the Surma Valley.

Petty settlements. Assam Proper.

136. The nature of the *raiyatwari* tenure in the Assam Valley has already been described. Estates held on annual lease are settled every year, and the annual relinquishment and taking up of land in tracts, where fluctuating cultivation prevails, necessitates a somewhat elaborate annual revision of settlement, on the accuracy of which depends the correct assessment of the land revenue demand. The periodic settlements undergo no alteration during the length of their term, save such as may be caused by the raiyat's relinquishing some fields of his holding. Every new settlement, whether annual or periodic, is preceded by measurement, which, like the assessment, is effected by the mandals under the supervision of the Sub-Deputy Collector who is responsible for the assessment, while the mauzadar is responsible for the collection of the demand. The average gross area of a mandal's circle is nearly 8 square miles.

Measurement.

137. The bulk of the cultivated area in the Assam Valley has been cadastrally surveyed on the scale of 16″ to a mile, and, where this is the case, all new fields are regularly surveyed and plotted on the cadastral sheets by the mandals, old and permanent cultivation being distinguished from land newly taken up by the use of different coloured lines. In tracts which have not yet come under survey, areas are estimated by measuring up the four sides of each field with a 30-foot chain and multiplying together the mean length and breadth thus ascertained. The registers in which the results of the measurements are recorded are two in number—a field register or *dagchitha* and a *jamabandi* or revenue roll. The former shows the number borne by each field, the raiyat's name, the area and class of soil; in non-cadastral tracts the boundaries and dimensions are also entered. The *jamabandi* is a record of the fields constituting each raiyat's holdings, their area, soil, class and assessment. Separate *jamabandis* are maintained for lands held on annual and on periodic leases. In the annual measurement of new lands and revision of settlement papers mandals are controlled by Sub-Deputy Collectors and Supervisor-kanungos, each of whom has under his charge a number of mandals' lots varying from one to thirty.

Assessment.

138. In the five upper districts of the Brahmaputra Valley the main classes or descriptions of land recognised generally are *basti*, *rupit*, and *faringati*. The first mentioned is the land on which the raiyat's house stands, with the garden enclosure around it; *rupit* land is land which grows any species of transplanted rice; the term *faringati* is applied to all land not falling within either of the two former classes, and includes land growing *ahu* or summer rice, sugarcane, mustard, and other crops.

Until 1893 no attempt had been made to proceed further in the direction of classification. Advantage was then taken of the expiry of the decennial leases to revise the assessment, and, while securing to Government a share of the increased value of the produce, to introduce a more detailed system of classification. The resettlement of the whole five districts was effected in a single season and made no pretence to scientific accuracy. The main consideration taken into account was the demand for land in a village as shown by the density of population and the proportion of settled to total area. All land of the same description in a village was placed in the same class, and villages were divided into four classes, this rough method of assessment being justified on the ground that the rates were low, and could be borne by the worst lands in a village without difficulty. The settlement of the five upper districts of the valley was concluded for ten years from the 1st April 1893.

After the conclusion of the settlement of 1893 it gradually became apparent that the revenue demand was most unevenly distributed and the main object of the resettlement was to substitute a more fairly proportioned demand. With this object in view the well known "soil-unit system" which was devised by Sir J. B. Fuller in

1885 in the Central Provinces, where it proved most successful, has been introduced since 1902 into all areas under permanent cultivation. The old descriptions known as *basti*, *rupit* and *faringati* were each subdivided into classes recognised by the cultivators. The nett relative productiveness of each class of land was expressed by a numerical factor: this figure is taken to represent the number of what are called "soil-units" in each bigha (or other standard of measure) of the particular class of land: consequently if the area of any class is multiplied by its factor, the product is the number of soil-units in that area. In ascertaining the incidence of the existing demand in a particular village, it is evident that the incidence on the soil-unit, or, as it is called, the unit incidence, will be a much better criterion of revenue pressure than the incidence on the acre or bigha, which makes no allowance for differentiation of soils. But the usefulness of the system is appreciated much more when it is a question of settling the rate to be imposed: for the determination of the percentage of increase or decrease per acre will not in any way indicate the percentage of increase or decrease in soil rates which should be imposed to produce the result aimed at. For example, if there are three soil classes, *a*, *b* and *c*, the factors of which are 20, 10 and 5, the number of soil-units in a bigha of each class is 20, 10 and 5, respectively: if there are 100 bighas of *a*, 260 of *b* and 1,000 of *c* in a village, the revenue of which is Rs. 480, the unit incidence is obtained as follows:—

Bighas.	Soil-unit.
100 × 20	2,000
260 × 10	2,600
1,000 × 5	5,000

9,600 divided into 480 × 16 = 0·80 annas.

If now it is determined to enhance the revenue of this village by 25 per cent. the new bigha rate for each soil class will be ascertained by multiplying the number of soil-units in a bigha or, in other words, the factor of each class by the new village rate, which in this case will be 1·00; thus the bigha rates of classes *a*, *b* and *c* will be rupees 1-4, annas 10 and annas 5. In practice, a number of villages are taken together in a group in which conditions are as homogeneous as possible: the unit incidence of the group is ascertained in the same way as for the village, and the group is rated as a whole by locally investigating various facts which throw light upon the pressure of the existing assessment: amongst these are the existing assessment, the economic condition of the people, the increase or decrease of population, communications, prices, trade and rates of rent. The group rate, having been determined, is used as a guide for fixing rates of villages, in which the process of assessment of fields is also from aggregate to detail.

It is impossible to give all the rates, which vary from village to village, but the incidence in annas of revenue per settled bigha of ordinary permanent cultivation at the time of re-settlement was:—

Kamrup	13·65	Darrang	13·39
Nowgong	11·52	Sibsagar	14·41
Lakhimpur	14·75		

The settlement of each district was fixed for twenty years, Kamrup and Sibsagar from 1905, Darrang and Nowgong from 1908 and 1909, and Lakhimpur from 1911 and 1912. All land taken up on periodic lease after the conclusion of the re-settlement is liable to revision ten years after the date of the re-settlement of the district. An important feature of this settlement was the imposition of low rates on unoccupied waste land which could not be classed by the settlement staff owing to the existence of jungle.

The rates of land taken up for tea on periodic patta are now as follows:—

	Per bigha, annas.
Kamrup, Nowgong and the Mangaldai subdivision of Darrang	8
Sibsagar and the Tezpur subdivision of Darrang	10
Lakhimpur	12

In the Eastern Duars and in the fluctuating tracts no attempt has been made to go beyond the old threefold classification of *basti*, *rupit* and *faringati*. The rates, current in that tract, are for *basti* and *rupit* 8 annas and *faringati* 4 annas per *bigha* except in the Guma mauza where the fourth-class village rates, formerly prescribed in respect of the upper districts of the Assam Valley, are imposed.

Sylhet.

139. In Sylhet the temporarily-settled portions, as already explained, consist of the Jaintia parganas and the *ilam* and other miscellaneous *mahals* not included in the permanent settlement.

The history of the Jaintia settlement has already been partly given. In 1838—1840 a cadastral or professional *khasra* survey was made of these parganas, and the maps of this survey formed the basis, with additional surveys by *amins* where fresh land had been taken up, of the re-settlement made in 1856. At this settlement, the rates of assessment were determined on local enquiry by the Settlement Officer and his subordinates, according to the nature of the soil and its capabilities. The rates varied from 2 annas 6 pies to Re. 1-0-3 per acre; but these rates were pitched extremely low in consequence of the successful opposition of the cultivators to the imposition of any higher assessment.

This settlement expired in 1876; but, owing to errors in the classification and assessment of the land, the new settlement was not finally completed until 1882 and terminated ten years later. The parganas were then surveyed and resettled for a term of 15 years with effect from April 1898, the date to which the former settlement had been extended. The assessment was made on principles somewhat similar to those adopted in the Assam Valley resettlement of 1893, villages being divided into five grades and land into four main classes, *viz.*, *basti* or homestead and garden land, rice land, waste, and land used for the cultivation of other crops than rice, assessed respectively at rates varying from 4 to 14, 4 to 10, 1 to 2 and 4 to 8 annas per *bigha*. Tea land was assessed at the uniform rate of 10 annas a *bigha*.

Ilam and miscellaneous temporarily-settled estates.

140. The resettlement of *ilam* and other miscellaneous temporarily-settled estates in Sylhet carried out in the years 1871—1881 has been referred to above. Before settlement, the lands were measured with chain and compass by amins, a plan of each estate on the scale of 16 inches to the mile was prepared, and the area was calculated in both *bighas* and acres. Their measurements were tested by the Settlement Deputy Collector. The rates of assessment were not independently determined with reference to the advantages of situation or fertility of the soil, but were fixed in each case by the Settlement Officer with reference to the rates paid by cultivators for similar lands in the neighbourhood. From these rates, a deduction of 15 per cent. was made to cover cost of collection and risks, and the remainder was fixed as the assessment of the *mahals*. On the expiry of the ordinary *ilam* leases in 1896, these estates, with other temporarily-settled estates, the terms of which had expired, and certain tracts of *khas* land, were resurveyed and reclassified on a different principle. Where the areas dealt with were of sufficient extent to admit of a regular traverse, they were traversed with the theodolite, and then surveyed cadastrally in blocks of convenient size, while the small detached estates scattered over the district, which it was not worthwhile to include in the traverse, were left to be surveyed independently with the plane-table. The lands, coming under resettlement, were classified according to four main descriptions, *viz.*, homestead, rice land, tea land, land growing crops other than rice and tea, and waste, and the whole area was distributed in four circles with reference to general considerations, such as liability to inundation, climate, facilities of communication, and proximity to markets. Within each circle the lands of each description were subdivided into classes with reference to broad differences of intrinsic quality. The rates assessed varied from 6 pies a *bigha* for waste to 14 annas for homestead and produced an enhancement of 46 per cent., chiefly owing to large extensions of cultivation.

Pratabgarh tahsil.

141. The *raiyatwari* tract of Pratabgarh was cadastrally surveyed for the purposes of the resettlement effected in 1893. On its expiry no resurvey was made, but the tract was reclassified on the same principles as the rest of the *ilam* area. As it was found that the raiyats had difficulty in paying their revenue at the existing rates, a reduction was made, the rates fixed varying from 2 annas a *bigha* for waste to Re. 1 for first-class homestead, as compared with 4 annas and Re. 1-2 under the preceding settlement.

Cachar.

142. The first regular settlement of Cachar was made in 1838-39 for a term of five years, and was based on a somewhat imperfect survey. In 1841-42 the district was surveyed on the same plan as the adjacent Jaintia parganas. The cultivated land in the several mauzas was surveyed, field by field, and so much of the uncultivated area as seemed likely to come under cultivation was also surveyed and divided into numbered *dags* or plots, the intention being that, as cultivation extended, these plots should afford the means of determining its site and a basis for a detailed map of its area. In 1843-44 a resettlement, based upon this survey, was made for fifteen years. Then followed the settlement of 1859, made for twenty years, which expired

in 1879. This also was based on the survey of 1841-42, and only land broken up since that year was measured up by *amins*. The land was divided into two classes, called *awwal* and *duam*, respectively; and within these classes it was ranged, according to situation, distance from navigable rivers, and exposure to the ravages of wild beasts, in four grades. The local measrue of land in Cachar is the *hal* or plough (also called hy the Arabic name *kalbah*), which is equal to 4·82 acres; and the rates imposed varied from Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 3 per *hal* for first-grade land to Rs. 2 to Re. 1-8 for fourth grade Waste land, producing thatching-grass and reeds, which are valuable products in the densely-peopled Surma Valley, was settled at the full rates of revenue charged for cultivated land in the neighbourhood. Forest jungle, which required much clearing, was settled for three years revenue free, and then at a progressive *jama*, rising to the full rates, charged for adjacent lands, at the end of the term, twenty years.

Settlement for fifteen years in 1878—1894.

142. On the expiry of this settlement, a fresh survey was made, and a settlement was effected for fifteen years, which extended up to the 31st March 1898. For the purpose of this settlement the three fiscal divisions, known as the Katigora tahsil, the Hailakandi tahsil, and the sadr tahsil, were dealt with separately. In each tahsil the soil was divided into four classes, *viz.*, homestead, cultivation, tea, and waste, and the lands of each class were again grouped in four circles, the constitution of the circles being based on a consideration of the productiveness of the soil, the facility or otherwise of communication, the liability to inundation, the exposure to the ravages of wild animals, and the proximity to dense forests.

The rates fixed at this assessment varied from Rs. 8-4-0 to Rs. 4-12-0 per *hal* for homestead land, from Rs. 7-2-0 to Rs. 3-12-0 for cultivation, and from Rs. 7-2-0 to Rs. 6 for tea. Waste was assessed at a uniform rate of Re. 1 per *hal*.

The district was resurveyed in the seasons 1893—1897 and, in April 1900, was resettled for a further term of 15 years.

The method of classification adopted for the purpose of reassessment was more discriminating than that employed at previous settlements. Instead of a rough classification of villages, an attempt was made to assign land to classes according to quality, and to recognise broad differences in the value of land within the village. Rice lands were distributed into five classes, homestead and ordinary cultivation other than rice into four each, and settled waste into two, while tea land was treated as a separate class, and assessed at a uniform rate. The rates of assessment, which were approved by the Government of India, resulted in the enhancement of the demand of the area coming under re settlement from Rs. 3,07,624 to Rs. 4,51,568, or by 46·80 per cent. In the greater part of the district, however, the whole of this enhancement was not brought into force at once. In all villages in which the total increase amounted to 33 per cent. or upwards, it was reached by progressive instalments, spread over 12 years in the case of villages which had been raised from the third or fourth to the first class, or in which the assessment at the maximum rates sanctioned exceeded double of the then existing assessment, and over 8 years in other cases.

Waste lands.

144. In the Assam Valley there are and in Cachar there were large wastes which belong to Government. The following is an account of the special terms under which waste land grants are held in various parts of the province.

The first special grant rules were those of the 6th of March 1838, and related to Assam Proper only. No grant was to be made of a less extent than 100 acres, or of a greater extent than 10,000 acres. One-fourth of the entire area was to be under cultivation by the expiration of the fifth year from the date of grant, on failure of which the whole grant was liable to resumption. One-fourth of the grant was to be held in perpetuity revenue-free. On the remaining three-fourths no revenue was to be assessed for the first five years if the land was under grass, ten years if under reeds and high grass, and twenty years if under forest; at the expiry of this term, revenue was to be assessed at 9 annas per acre for the next three years, after which the rate was to be for twenty-two years Re. 1-2 an acre. At the close of this period (the thirtieth year in the case of grants of grass lands, thirty-fifth in the case of reed lands, and forty-fifth in the case of forest lands) the three-fourths liable to assessment were to be assessed, at the option of the grantee, either at the market value of one-fourth of the produce of the lands, or at the average rate of revenue paid by rice lands in the district where the grant was situated; the revenue was thereafter to be adjusted in the same manner at the end of every term of twenty-one years. Very few grants under these rules exist at present.

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The next rules were those for leasehold grants of the 23rd October 1854, commonly called the Old Assam Rules. Under these rules no grant was to be less than 500 acres in extent (afterwards reduced to 200 acres, or even 100 acres in special cases). One-fourth of the grant was exempted from assessment in perpetuity, and the remaining three-fourths were granted revenue-free for fifteen years, to be assessed thereafter at 3 annas an acre for ten years, and at 6 annas an acre for seventy-four years more, making a whole term of ninety-nine years; after which the grant was to be subject to re-survey and settlement "at such moderate assessment as might seem proper to the Government of the day, the proprietary right remaining with the grantee's representatives under the conditions generally applicable to the owners of the estates not permanently settled." One-eighth of the grant was to be cleared and rendered fit for cultivation in five years, one-fourth in ten years, one-half in twenty years, and three-fourths by the expiration of the thirtieth year; and the entire grant was declared to be liable to resumption in case of the non-fulfilment of these conditions. The grants were transferable, subject to registration of transfer in the Deputy Commissioner's office. These rules were extended to Sylhet and Cachar in 1856, and were in force until 1861, when they were superseded by rules for grants in fee-simple, which at the same time allowed holders of leasehold grants under the prior rules to redeem their revenue payments, on condition that the stipulated area had been duly cleared, at twenty years' purchase of the revenue at the time payable. This permission is still in force, and has been largely taken advantage of. Two hundred and seventy-one grants, with an area of 288,206 acres, have thus been redeemed, and 36 grants with an area of 35,451 acres (most of which are in Cachar) remain upon the original terms.

To these succeeded a new policy, that of disposing of land in fee-simple. The first fee-simple rules were those issued by Lord Canning in October 1861. The Secretary of State took objection to some of their provisions, and a fresh set of rules was issued on the 30th August 1862. The rules, issued by Lord Canning, provided for the disposal of the land to the applicant at fixed rates, ranging from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 5 per acre. The rules of August 1862 provided that the lot should be put up to auction. Grants were to be limited, except under special circumstances, to an area of 3,000 acres. In each case the grant was ordinarily to be compact, including no more than one tract of land in a ring fence. The upset price was to be not less than Rs. 2-8 an acre, and, in exceptional localities, it might be as high as Rs. 10. Provision was made for the survey of lands previous to sale, and for the demarcation of proper boundaries, where applicants for unsurveyed lands were, for special reasons, put in possession prior to survey, and also for the protection of proprietary or occupancy rights in the lands applied for. The purchase-money was to be paid either at once or by instalments. In the latter case, a portion of the purchase-money, not less than 10 per cent, was to be paid at the time of sale, and the balance within ten years of that date., with interest at 10 per cent. per annum on the portion remaining unpaid. Default of payment of interest of purchase-money rendered the grant liable to re-sale.

These rules were in force till August 1872, when the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal stopped further grants under them, pending revision of the rules.

Revised fee-simple rules were issued in February 1874, which raised the upset price of land sold to Rs. 8 per acre, and made more careful provision for accurate identification of the land, and for consideration of existing rights and claims, before its disposal. Those rules continued in force till April 1876.

There now exist in the province 322 fee-simple grants (excluding redeemed leasehold grants already mentioned), covering an area of 58,130 *bighas*.

The existing special rules under which applications for waste lands for the cultivation of tea, coffee, and other produce which is not included among the ordinary staples of the province and which require a considerable expenditure of capital, are dealt with in Assam, were originally issued in April 1876, and were revised and re-issued under sections 12 and 29 of the Land and Revenue Regulation in 1887. The land is leased (for thirty years) at progressive rates and the lease is put up for auction sale, but only among applicants prior to its advertisement in the gazette, at an upset price of Re. 1 per acre, under the provisions of Act XXIII of 1863. The progressive rates are as follows:—

For the first two years	Revenue-free.
„ next four „	3 annas an acre.
„ „ four „	6 „ „
„ „ ten „	8 „ „
„ „ ten „	1 rupee „

After the expiration of the last mentioned term, the land is to be assessed under the laws in force, "provided that no portion of the said land shall at any time be assessed at a rate higher than that then payable on the most highly-assessed lands in the said district, cultivated with rice, pulses or other ordinary agricultural produce." The grantee is required to pay the revenue punctually on the due date; to devote the land only to the special crops for the cultivation of which it is granted,* personally to reside in the district, or have an agent residing there; to erect, and maintain in repair, proper boundary marks; not voluntary to alienate any portion of the land, unless the estate is transferred as a whole; and to give notice to the Deputy Commissioner of all such transfers. On breach of any of these conditions, the concession of the favourable rates of assessment on which the land is held is liable to be withdrawn, and the estate to be assessed at the ordinary district rates. Settlement is no longer made under these rules in Sylhet or in the plains portion of the Cachar district.

It has recently been ordered that all leases of this class which expired on the 1st April 1912, or which may expire between that date and the 31st March 1932, will be renewed up to the 31st March 1932; the rates of assessment will be annas 6 per *bigha* or Re. 1-2 an acre in the Surma Valley and Goalpara, Kamrup and Nowgong districts and in Mangaldai subdivision and annas 6-8 a *bigha* or Re. 1-4 an acre in Tezpur subdivision and the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The conditions of the lease will be the same as before, but provisions will be added to facilitate (1) the settlement on rice lands covered by the lease of coolies to work as labourers on the tea cultivation, and (2) the resignation of compact blocks of holdings. There will also be a clause providing for payment in respect of unused timber on the grants or; portions of grants relinquished to Government.

Mention should here be made of a special tenure, compounded of the lease under the rules of April 1876 and the terms on which *ilam* land is held in the district, on which certain tea planters have been allowed to hold land for tea in South Sylhet. When the *ilam* re-settlement was in progress in this district, it was found that several planters had recently acquired considerable areas of waste land held under *ilam pattas*. One of the rules of the *ilam* settlement was that waste land within the boundaries of the *patta*, which exceeded the proportion of one-fifth of the cultivated area, should be resumed by Government. But it was precisely in order to obtain this waste land that tea planters had acquired the *ilam pattas*. A compromise was, therefore, made in 1879. The land already under tea was assessed at Re. 1-8 per acre; of the waste, an area, equal to one-fifth of the cultivated area, was allowed at 8 annas an acre and the rest permitted to be held on the terms and at the rates specified in the Waste Land Rules of 1876. The settlement of these estates, known as "modified *ilam*" estates, expired on different dates, the latest terminating in the year 1903. These estates have now been re-settled with the other *ilam* estates and will expire on the same date as the latter, *viz.*, 1922.

SECTION B.—Civil Divisions of British Territory.

General administrative divisions.

145. The province of Assam is divided, for administrative purposes, into twelve districts, *viz.*, the six districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, the two districts of the Surma Valley, and the four hill districts. These districts, their administrative headquarters, the subdivisions into which they are divided, their area, and their population according to the census of March 1911, are shown below:—

Name of district.	Headquarters.	Subdivisions.	Area, in square miles.	Population.
1	2	3	4	5
Surma Valley.				
Cachar	Silchar ...	Silchar	1,649	339,107
		Hailakandi ...	414	131,060
		Total ...	2,063	470,167
		Carried over ...	2,063	470,167

* Under executive orders the clause in the lease, requiring the previous permission of the Deputy Commissioner before the land included in the lease is used for ordinary cultivation, is not enforced so long as the main purpose, to which the estate is put, is special cultivation.

Name of district.	Headquarters.	Subdivisions.	Area, in square miles.	Population.
1	2	3	4	5
Surma Valley—concld.		Brought forward ...	2,036	470,167
Sylhet	Sylhet ...	North Sylhet ...	864	523,931
		Karimganj ...	1,066	464,159
		South Sylhet ...	1,064	408,002
		Habiganj ...	999	597,056
		Sunamganj ...	1,450	479,523
		Total ...	5,443	2,472,671
Total Surma Valley ...	.....	.....	7,506	2,942,838
Brahmaputra Valley.				
Goalpara	Dhubri ...	Dhubri ...	2,865	443,238
		Goalpara ...	1,089	157,405
		Total ...	3,954	600,643
Kamrup	Gauhati ...	Gauhati ...	2,584	528,679
		Barpeta ...	1,274	139,149
		Total ...	3,858	667,828
Darrang	Tezpur ...	Tezpur ...	2,041	207,155
		Mangaldai ...	1,377	170,159
		Total ...	3,418	377,314
Nowgong	Nowgong ...	.....	3,843	303,596
		Carried over ...	22,579	4,892,219

Name of district.	Headquarters.	Subdivisions.	Area in square miles.	Population.
1	2	3	4	5
Brahmaputra Valley—concld.		Brought forward ...	22,579	4,892,219
Sibsagar	Jorhat ...	Jorhat ...	1,032	254,645
		Sibsagar	1,162	240,158
		Golaghat ...	3,014	195,496
		Total ...	5,208	690,299
Lakhimpur ...	Dibrugarh ...	Dibrugarh ...	3,033	369,738
		North Lakhimpur ...	1,174	99,251
		Total ...	4,207	468,989
Total Brahmaputra Valley	.....	.....	24,488	3,108,669
Hill Districts.				
Garo Hills ...	Tura	.....	3,140	158,936
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	Shillong ...	Shillong ...	3,941	157,202
		Jowai	2,086	77,867
		Total ...	6,027	235,069
Naga Hills ...	Kohima ...	Kohima ...	2,337	86,597
		Mokokchang ...	733	63,026
		Total ...	3,070	149,623
North Cachar* ...	Haflong ...	.....	1,706	27,296
Lushai Hills ...	Aijal ...	Aijal	4,701	65,215
		Lungleh ...	2,526	25,989
		Total ...	7,227	91,204
Total Hill Districts ...	.....	.....	21,170	662,128
Grand Total ...	.....	.....	53,164	6,913,635

* North Cachar is really a subdivision of Cachar, but is here shown as a separate district.

Section 4, Police divisions.

The six districts of the Brahmaputra Valley together with the Garo Hills district constitute the charge of the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, whose headquarters are at Gauhati. The remaining districts of the province, under the designation of the Surma Valley and Hill Districts Division, form the charge of a second Commissioner with headquarters at Silchar.

146. There are in the province 64 thanas and 49 outposts. These areas, though they originally define police jurisdiction, are convenient for other purposes. Thus, the jurisdiction of the munsifs in Sylhet is arranged by thanas, and the registration sub-districts are similarly arranged. Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis in the Surma Valley are also appointed for thana and outpost areas.

Revenue divisions.

147. As has been already stated, the districts of the Assam Valley and the Eastern Duars are portioned out for revenue purposes into mauzas. The average area of these mauzas is 117 square miles. They thus correspond in size more with the pargana or *tappa* than with the mauza of Upper India. In Assam there is little cohesion in the village society, and hardly anything which represents the complex social organisation of the North-Western Provinces or the Punjab. Hamlets of a few houses are scattered about the whole mauza area, and though the boundaries of the lands recognised as belonging to a particular village are in some districts (*e.g.*, parts of Kamrup) known to the people they do not imply any definite appropriation of the soil to that village. Any one applying for it can settle upon Government waste land wherever situated.

In Sylhet and the plains of Cachar, as well as in the permanently-settled portion of Goalpara, the ordinary revenue division into parganas, which dates from times prior to British rule, is in force. In the two former districts, however, these parganas are very small, and much interlaced one with another. In Sylhet, there are 186 parganas, so that their average area is less than 29 square miles. Of these 15 are smaller than one square mile, and 42 are more than one and less than two square miles. In the plains of Cachar there are 24 parganas, and in Goalpara 19, the last representing separately-settled estates of the permanent settlement.

In Sylhet and Cachar these parganas are grouped into larger areas for the purposes of revenue collection. In Sylhet these areas are called zilas, of which there are ten, besides the Jaintia parganas, which latter are divided into two tahsils or collection areas. The zilas are made up of parganas, and the revenue is paid at each subdivisional headquarters for the zilas included in its jurisdiction. In the Jaintia parganas there are two collecting centres, one at Kanairghat and the other at Gowainghat. In Cachar, the plains portion of the district is divided into three tahsils, the offices of which are located at Silchar, Hailakandi, and Katigora.

In the hill districts different divisions for revenue purposes prevail. In the Garo Hills, the strip of plains land which surrounds the hill area on three sides is managed by two mauzadars, who, however, are not contractors, as in Assam, but officers on a fixed salary. The hill area is also portioned out into five mauzas; but the mauzadar here is merely the superior officer, who receives the house-tax from the *lashkars*, or Garo headmen of groups of villages. These again collect from the *lakma* or *nokma*, the head and representative of each village. There are six zamindari estates bordering the district under the management of the Deputy Commissioner. Revenue from these estates is collected by the mauzadars. Twenty-five per cent. of the total collection is retained by Government as collection charges, and the balance is paid to the respective zamindars. A portion of the Mechpara estate called "B" Mahal is managed by the zamindars themselves, who keep 85 per cent. of the revenue, and pay 15 per cent. to the Government. In the hill mauzas, the Government share in certain villages varies from 25 per cent. to 75 per cent. of the revenue in the Karaibari estate, and from 25 per cent. to 62½ per cent. in the Mechpara "A" Mahal.

In the Khasi Hills, as already mentioned, there is not much British territory, the area being generally included in the States of the Khasi Siems, Sardars, Lyngdohs, or other petty chiefs. Only 34 villages, or groups of villages, are British, and these pay house-tax through a village headman. In the Jaintia Hills there are 19 circles of villages, each of which is managed by a *dolloi* or headman, who collects the house-tax and pays it in, receiving commission. There are besides four Sardarships, the management of which is hereditary, the headmen being Kuki or Mikir chiefs.

In North Cachar, the assessment and collection of house tax were formerly carried out by a special tahsil establishment, but this has been replaced since 1884 by mauzadars, who are remunerated by a commission of 10 per cent., and occupy much the same position as the mauzadar in the Brahmaputra Valley.

In the Naga Hills, the house-tax is collected by village headmen who receive a commission of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

SECTION B.—Details of the last Census (1911).

148. The census of 1911 was the fifth census of Assam, which in 1872, at the time of the first census of India, was included in Bengal, and at the census of 1911 was part of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The different standards of accuracy of previous censuses are discussed in Chapter II of the Census Report—briefly the census of 1872 is negligible and that of 1881 was not sufficiently supervised, but those of 1891 and 1901 are reliable. The population of Manipur in 1891 was omitted from the report of that year, because of the loss of enumeration papers in the rising, but the population of the Mokokchang subdivision of the Naga Hills and an estimate of the population of the North Lushai Hills were added. In 1901 Manipur and the whole of the present Lushai Hills district were included. At the present census an unsurveyed tract of Sema and Eastern Angami villages, the population of which amounted to 39,583, was the only addition to the area of the province.

Outlines of procedure.

149. The enumeration in 1911 was mostly synchronous, but in certain areas, where on account of the scanty population and the want of literate persons this was impossible, the counting spread over a period. In certain other places a modified form of synchronous enumeration was adopted. The synchronous system was enforced in all the plains districts (the plains mauzas of the Garo Hills included), in the Lushai Hills, in part of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, in the Bagari and Eastern Rengma Duars of the Mikir Hill Tract in Sibsagar, and in the Manipur Valley. The modified synchronous procedure was adopted in the rest of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, in the Mikir Hill Tract in Nowgong, in the Western and Naga Rengma mauzas of the same tract in Sibsagar, and in the North Cachar Hills. The census was non-synchronous in the hill mauzas of the Garo Hills, in Duardisa and Borjar in the Mikir Hill Tract of Sibsagar, in the Sadiya Tract and among the Sarkari Nagas of Lakhimpur, and in the hills under the Manipur State.

The whole province was divided into blocks of an average size of 38 to 40 houses in the synchronous tracts and 80 to 90 houses in the rest. In the hills under the Manipur State the average was as high as 141 houses per block. Each block was in the charge of an enumerator, and over him was a Supervisor, who was in charge of a circle consisting on an average of 11 blocks, and was subject to a Charge Superintendent who had from 14 to 20 circles to look after. The Census Officer of each district was responsible for the adequate training of these functionaries, who were unpaid except in parts of the hill districts. The Deputy Commissioner of each district exercised general control. Operations began in January 1910, when the area of each district was carefully distributed, by means of maps and local enquiries, into charges, circles and blocks. Next, all the houses were numbered, and finally the preliminary enumeration was begun in January 1911. The entries then made were mostly written on blank paper, so that the census forms might not be disfigured by the corrections made by inspecting officers, and were copied on the schedule by the end of February. On the night of the 10th March 1911, each enumerator in the synchronous tracts visited each house in his block, added to the schedule of the preliminary enumeration the names of new arrivals, and crossed out the names of persons who were absent or dead. In areas where the census was only partially synchronous, the preliminary record was brought up to date on the morning of the 11th March from the reports made by village headmen to the enumerators, who took up positions at convenient centres. In the non-synchronous areas no attempt was made to correct the preliminary record after it had been checked by inspecting officers. Special arrangements were made to deal with large assemblies at fairs, etc., and travellers by road, river or train.

Area and density of population.

150. The area of the province as shown by the last census is 61,471 square miles and the total population 7,059,857, the Manipur State accounting for 346,222 of the total population. The density is 115 to the square mile for the whole province.

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In the three natural divisions of the province the density varies from 406 in the Surma Valley to 126 in the Brahmaputra Valley and 34 in the Hills. As regards particular districts, Sylhet has 459 persons to the square mile, and the Lushai Hills only 13.

	Area in square miles.	Density.
ASSAM ...	61,471	115
Brahmaputra Valley ...	24,693	126
Goalpara ...	3,954	152
Kamrup ...	3,858	173
Darrang ...	3,418	110
Nowgong ...	3,843	79
Sibsagar ...	4,996	138
Lakhimpur ...	4,529	104
Surma Valley ...	7,247	406
Cachar plains ...	1,859	259
Sylhet ...	5,388	459
Hill Districts ...	29,626	34
Garo Hills ...	3,140	51
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	6,027	39
North Cachar ...	1,706	16
Naga Hills ...	3,770	49
Manipur ...	8,456	41
Lushai Hills ...	7,227	13

Some at least of the causes of these variations are to be sought in history. The devastations caused in the Brahmaputra Valley by the Moamaria insurrection and the Burmese invasion left a scanty population at the time of the British annexation. Until recent years an unhealthy climate and the absence of communications, in spite of the opening up of the country by tea gardens, prevented speedy development. In the Surma Valley, Cachar and the east and south portions of the Sylhet district suffered too much from the raids of the neighbouring hill tribes to be inviting places of residence, and even now in Sylhet the greatest density of population is to be found in the centre and west of the district. In the Hills it is not so long since head-hunting was considered to be the only proper occupation of a man, while the primitive conditions of agriculture militate against a large population.

Towns and villages.

151. The province is essentially of a non-urban character. Of the entire population only 30 persons out of 1,000 live in towns, the number being 24 in the Brahmaputra Valley and 15 in the Surma Valley. The highest proportion of urban residents is found in the Hills, where the overgrown village of Imphal, the capital of Manipur, unduly swells the figure. There are 21 towns in the province, all of which, except Imphal, contain less than 20,000 inhabitants, while only 5 have a population of over 10,000. The average village of the province contains 233 persons, that of the Brahmaputra Valley having 280, that of the Surma Valley 244 and that of the Hills 138. The total number of villages is 27,875 against 22,326 in 1901. In all the plains districts except Sylhet and Goalpara the revenue village was taken as the census village, and the increase in number is due, in the plains, to the increase in population, and in the hills, both to the growth of numbers and also to the absence of warfare, and hence of the necessity for residence in large villages with a view to self-protection.

Variation in the population.

152. The increase in the population since 1901 has been 933,514 persons or 15·2 per cent., but part of this is due to the inclusion for the first time of some Sema and eastern Angami villages in the Naga Hills. Their population is 39,586 and its exclusion reduces the increase in the province to 893,928, *i.e.*, almost 14·6 per cent. The Brahmaputra Valley shows a growth of 18·7 per cent., the Surma Valley of 10·8 per cent. and the Hills of 18·5 per cent. If the Naga Hills are left out of account the largest increase was one of 30 per cent. in Goalpara. Then follow Lakhimpur with 26·3 per cent. and Manipur State with 21·7 per cent. No other district shows an advance of 20 per cent. The increase in the natural population amounts in the Brahmaputra Valley to 16·7 per cent., in the Surma Valley including North Cachar to 13·7 per cent., and in the Hills to 21·4 per cent. The large increase in Goalpara is mainly due to immigration from the neighbouring districts of Bengal, and is for the most part confined to the areas near the Brahmaputra. It is satisfactory to note that the decline in the population known distinctively as Assamese, which was so noted in 1901, has now been changed to an increase of over 11 per cent. The only district where a decrease was found is Darrang, where the northern mauzas of the Mangaldai subdivision have not yet recovered from the ravages of kala-azar.

153. Over half the population of the province are Hindus, a little more than a quarter are Muhammadans, and less than one-fifth are Animists. Hindus form over 7 per cent. of the population of the Brahmaputra Valley, 47 per cent. of that of the Surma Valley and one-quarter of that of the Hills, where more than half the population of North Cachar and Manipur have been so returned. The number of Hindus has grown by 11·9 per cent. since 1901, the rate of increase being 3·3 per cent. less than that of the general population, and they have fallen back in comparison with Muhammadans, Animists and Christians. In the Brahmaputra Valley and in the Hills the rate of increase, though about 3 per cent. less than that of the

Population by religion.	
Hindu ...	3,838,769
Brahmo ...	428
Sikh ...	757
Jain ...	2,508
Buddhist ...	10,513
Musalman ...	1,901,032
Christian ...	66,562
Animist ...	1,239,280
Minor ...	8
Total ...	7,059,857

population as a whole, is nearly 16 per cent., but in the Surma Valley it is only 5·7 per cent. as was the case in 1901. In every district of the Brahmaputra Valley except Goalpara the proportion of Hindus has fallen owing to an increase of Animists and, to a small extent, of Muhammadans. In the Surma Valley the same phenomenon is due entirely to the expansion of the Muhammadans. In the province as a whole there are now 54 Hindus to 27 Muhammadans, while ten years ago there were 56 Hindus to 26 Muhammadans.

Muhammadans constitute more than half the population of the Surma Valley and about one-ninth of that of the Brahmaputra Valley. They are a negligible quantity in the Hills. Their predominance in the Surma Valley is due to the early conquest of Sylhet by the Muhammadans and the colonisation of Cachar from Sylhet. In the Brahmaputra Valley the Muhammadan population is mainly descended from the survivors of the Muhammadan invaders in the thirteenth century, but in Goalpara they are mostly immigrants or descendents of immigrants from the neighbouring districts of Bengal.

As might be expected, Animists are to be found mainly in the Hills, where they constitute over two-thirds of the population. They also exist along the edges of the Brahmaputra Valley, where they amount to 17 per cent. of the population. In the Surma Valley their numbers are insignificant, being slightly greater in the plains of Cachar than in Sylhet. In North Cachar and in the Manipur State they constitute less than half the population. Since the last census, Animists have increased in the province by 16 per cent., a rate nearly 1 per cent. in excess of that of the general population, and this notwithstanding a decrease in their numbers of nearly 20 per cent. in the Surma Valley. In the Brahmaputra Valley their increase is due to a certain extent to immigration, but still more to greater accuracy in the record of religions. There is an extraordinary decrease in Goalpara, where the proportion of Animists per 10,000 of the population has fallen from 2,719 to 788 on account of the conversion by one Sib Narayan Swami of large numbers of Meches to a form of Vedic Hinduism. In the Hills, where the spread of Christianity has been felt, the rate of increase among Animists is less by 1 per cent. than that of the general population.

The increase in the number of Christians since 1901 is 85 per cent., and their number is now over eight times what it was thirty years ago. The conversions are usually obtained among the Animistic tribes who have not yet felt the attraction of Hinduism. The percentage of increase is in the Brahmaputra Valley nearly 70, in the Surma Valley 54·6, and in the Hills 96·2. The community is strongest in the last named division, where there are 432 Christians in every 10,000 of the population, and is weakest in the Surma Valley where the proportion is only 9. In the Brahmaputra Valley it is 68. In the province as a whole the number per 10,000 is now 94 against 59 ten years ago and 31 in 1891. A little less than half the total number is to be found in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, where there are now 31,257 Christians. The most successful Christian missionary society is the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Mission, which has its headquarters in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Next comes the American Baptist Mission, which works in the Brahmaputra Valley and all the hill districts except the Lushai Hills. Besides these, there are the German Evangelical Lutheran Mission, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the Roman Catholic Mission.

Sex.

154. The number of females to each thousand males in Assam is 940 for the actual population, and 963 if immigrants are not reckoned. The proportion in the Brahmaputra Valley, where the statistics are much disturbed by immigration, is 913. In the Surma Valley it is 943, while in the Hills there are 1,026 females to every 1,000 males. There is an excess of females in all the hill districts except the Garo Hills, which contains a considerable plains population. Among the Hindus there are 922 females to every thousand males, amongst Muhammadans there are 930, and amongst Animists 1,022. The cause of the excess of males is not very clear, but there is no doubt that there is a high mortality of females in the child-bearing period. The fact that the females are in a majority in the Hills, where the people are not burdened with the custom of early marriage or with an unfavourable climate, supports this inference.

Marriage.

155. At first sight it would seem that in Assam there is nothing very specially noteworthy in the statistics of civil condition, at least as far as males are concerned. In England the percentage of bachelors in 1901 was 61, while in Assam it is 55; but the percentage of spinsters is only 42 in Assam against 59 in England, and we find that in Assam most of the unmarried males are under 20 and most of the spinsters under 15. Amongst males between 15 and 40, 60 per cent. are married and only 3 per

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cent. of those over 40 are unmarried. Among females 27 per cent. of those aged between 10 and 15 and 80 of those aged between 15 and 40 are married, while less than 1 per cent. of those over 40 remain single. The statistics of marriage by religion show that the Buddhists are the most married and have the smallest proportion of widows and the largest of widowers, but they form only a small community and cannot be taken as typical. The greatest number of widows, 188 per mille, is found amongst Hindus, who are followed in order by Muhammadans, Animists, and Christians. There are more married women amongst Muhammadans than in any other of the main religions, and the number of spinsters is highest in the Christian community, though the Animists are not far behind. The large extent of widowhood amongst Hindus is due partly to the tender age of the brides, and partly to the prohibition of widow marriage, but these customs prevail only in the Surma Valley and in Goalpara. The preponderance of married women amongst Muhammadans arises from the fact that, like Hindus, their girls are married young, but their widows are not prevented from accepting a second partner in life. Animists and Christians are similar to Muhammadans in that they have no objection to a wife who is not a virgin, but they are differentiated by the fact that they postpone the marriage of their womenfolk until adolescence.

Infirmities.

156. As at previous censuses, enquiries were restricted to insanity, deaf-mutism, blindness, and leprosy. The number of the insane has increased since the last census, but their proportion to the total population in either sex is less than it was twenty years ago. There are now 51 males and 37 females insane per 100,000 of the people against 62 and 48 in 1891, though at the last census the numbers had dropped as low as 47 and 35. The proportion of insane is higher in the Hills than elsewhere owing to the extraordinary number so returned in the Lushai Hills. It appears from the last India Census Report that insanity was then specially prevalent in the Chin Hills of Burma and the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bengal, both of which border on the Lushai Hills and contain kindred tribes. After the Lushai Hills comes Goalpara, where the cause is apparently the large population belonging to the Koch tribe, which seems to be more than ordinarily subject to insanity. It is doubtful how far we can accept as true the diagnosis of the average enumerator. The increase since the last census may be due to the absence of the unhealthy conditions which prevailed in the previous decade, and tended to cut short the lives of the congenitally infirm.

There has been a steady increase in the number of deaf-mutes within the last thirty years though their proportion to the total population has fallen since 1891. Within the last ten years the ratio of males afflicted has remained unchanged, but there has been a rise in the proportion of females, and it is not improbable that the variation is a sign of greater accuracy. The statistics of age show that the increase for both sexes taken together is partly due to greater care exercised at the time of enumeration and is partly real. One factor may be the absence of hardships in the last intercensal period. In the Naga Hills the proportion of deaf-mutes is over 6½ times the provincial average.

In spite of an increase of over 11 per cent. in the number of blind since 1901 the proportion of those so afflicted shows a steady decline in both sexes for the last twenty years. Blindness is not one of the more prevalent infirmities in Assam. The absence of glare, dust, poverty and overcrowding in ill-ventilated houses all contribute to this happy result. In the Hills blindness is more common than elsewhere, and the high proportion among the Garos, Nagas and Lushais would seem to be due to the absence of general cleanliness and ventilation.

Since 1891 the proportion of male lepers has been reduced by over half and that of females by nearly the same amount. This reduction practically extends over each of the natural divisions, but is especially marked in the Hills, where it amounts to nearly two-thirds of the number of males and over two-thirds of the number of females afflicted twenty years ago. In this division the decline is in part due to more accurate diagnosis and to the exclusion of leucoderma and Naga sores. It is now an accepted fact that leprosy is not hereditary, and is contagious only to a small extent. It follows that, with improved sanitary conditions, the disease should die out, and this apparently is what is happening here and elsewhere. The proportion of lepers to the total population is however still very high in Assam. How far this is due to faults in diagnosis it is hard to say, but there is little doubt that the figure returned is in excess of the facts. An examination of the statistics by castes shows that the Meche of Goalpara contain the greatest number of lepers, and that the Mikirs, Miris and

Rajbansis follow next in order. It is precisely among these castes and tribes that a correct diagnosis is least to be expected, and it may not unreasonably be concluded that the high proportional figures for Assam are due in great measure to the confusion of leprosy with other skin diseases.

Language.

157. The two main languages of the province are Bengali and Assamese. The former is spoken by 46 per cent. and the latter by 22 per cent. of the population. The number of Bengali speakers has declined by 2 per cent. since 1901 on account of the more accurate census of the language of tea coolies. The tendency of the enumerators in the Brahmaputra Valley is to class as Bengali any language spoken by immigrants. Hindi and Oriya are spoken by respectively 61 and 9 persons in every thousand of the population, and Nepali by 7. Bengali is the vernacular of the Surma Valley and of the Dhubri subdivision of Goalpara in the Brahmaputra Valley, in every other district of which Assamese is the language. Uriya is confined to tea-garden coolies. Hindi is also spoken by this class as well as by other immigrants who are unindentured. Nepali is spoken mainly by the large number of buffalo graziers who have spread all over the Brahmaputra Valley and parts of the Hills. Besides these two languages there is a very large number of dialects spoken by the Animistic tribes, both those that belong to the province and those that are imported for tea gardens. It is unnecessary to enter into a detailed description, but the figures in the margin show the distribution per mille of the population of the speakers of the main families of languages.

Austro-Asiatic	...	48
Tibeto-Chinese	...	184
Dravidian	...	8
Indo-European	...	752
Minor languages	...	8
Total	...	1,000

Education

158. At the last census, in order to establish a reasonable standard of literacy, it was laid down in the instructions that no one should be shown as able to read and write who could not write a letter to a friend and read the reply, the object being to exclude people who could merely write their names. In Assam, out of a total population of 7,059,857, 333,672 persons were returned as having reached this standard. Of these 312,919 were males and 20,753 were females. In other words in every thousand of the population there were only 47 who could read and write, and in every thousand of either sex there were 86 literate males and 6 literate females. The Surma Valley stands first with 100 males and 7 females literate per mille of the population In the Brahmaputra Valley the proportions are 85 and 5, respectively, and in the Hills 47 and 8. The last division thus takes the first place in the matter of female education. This distribution is natural in view of the conditions of each tract. The large number of immigrant coolies and persons belonging to aboriginal tribes tends to lower the proportion of literates in the Brahmaputra Valley, while the comparatively high standard of literacy in the Hills is due mainly to the progress of education amongst the Khasis, of whom a large proportion have been converted to Christianity. As in 1901, the plains of Cachar are the most advanced part of the province and are followed by the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Sylhet and Kamrup come next with 54 literates per mille. Then follow Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur and Goalpara. Darrang, the remaining district of the Brahmaputra Valley, stands below the Lushai Hills, where there are no fewer than 81 males per mille who can read and write. The last three in order of precedence are Manipur, the Garo Hills and the Naga Hills. The proportion of literates is highest amongst Christians, Indians who are Christians being in this respect much more advanced than their fellow countrymen. Hindus take precedence of members of the other religions. Muhammadans have generally up to recent times refused to recognise any advantage in education. Among the Animistic tribes which are usually backward, most of the literates are Christians.

Occupation.

159. The main feature of the occupational statistics of the last census was the introduction of M. Bertillon's scheme of classification, which reduced the number of groups from 520 to 169. In Assam over 75 per cent. of the people are dependent on ordinary cultivation, nearly 10 per cent. on the growing of special products, of which tea is practically the sole representative, 67 in 10,000 raise farm stock and 6 are dependent on forestry. If to these we add the proportion who extract minerals, which is 9 per 10,000, we find that 8,761 persons per 10,000 of the population are dependent on the production of raw materials. The remaining 1,239 of each 10,000 of the population are distributed as follows :—preparation and supply of material substances—762, public administration and liberal arts—184, and miscellaneous—293. In addition to the ordinary census there was a special industrial census of factories which employed a minimum number of 20 hands on the census day. Tea plantations accounted for 94 per cent. of the workers, the number being 493,483.

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration.

160. On the afternoon of the 22nd August 1911, Sir Lancelot Hare, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., resigned the office of Lieutenant Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam which he had held since the 20th August 1906. He was succeeded by Sir Charles Stuart Bayley, K.C.S.I.

Assam was throughout the year an integral part of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam which was created in 1905. From the 1st April 1912 it again became a separate Administration, in accordance with the Proclamation of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor, made at Delhi on the 12th December 1911.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Feudatory States

Feudatory States.

161. The only Feudatory States with which the Assam Administration has political relations are Manipur and the petty States in the Khasi Hills. Of the latter, sufficient has already been said in section 2 of this Chapter.

Manipur.

162. Manipur is a protected State lying between Burma on the east, the Naga Hills on the north, Cachar on the west, and the Lushai Hills and the country of the Sukte Kukis on the south. It is almost entirely a hill country, the exception being the valley of Manipur in its centre. Its area is 8,456 square miles, and its population, according to the census of 1911, 346,222. Of these, 130,093 were members of Animistic tribes, the remainder being by religion Hindu or Muhammadan, and consisting of the population of the valley of Manipur, in which is situated the capital of the State. The claim of the Manipuris to be Hindus, however, rests on no better foundation than the same claim on the part of Ahoms, Kacharis, or Tipperas (with all of whom the Manipur ruling family has intermarried); and, while their features clearly show that they belong to the Indo-Chinese stock, their language is closely allied to those of the Kuki tribes which border them on the south.*

The kingdom of Manipur first emerges from obscurity as a neighbour and ally of the Shan kinglom of Pong, which had its capital at Mogaung. The regalia of the royal family are said to have been bestowed by king Komba of Pong, who at the same time added the valley of Khambat to Manipur. In 1714 a Naga, named Pamheiba, became Raja of Manipur, and adopted Hinduism, taking the name of Gharib Nawaz. His people followed his example, and since that date have been conspicuous for the rigidity with which they observe the rules of caste and ceremonial purity. Gharib Nawaz, during his reign of forty years, was engaged in constant warfare with Burma, and this state of things continued during the reigns of his successors. Manipur was frequently invaded by the Burmese, whose last occupation of the country began in 1819. The three Manipuri princes, Marjit, Chaurjit, and Gambhir Singh, were compelled to escape to Cachar, which country, as has already been related, they occupied. With them large numbers of Manipuris emigrated, and many of their descendants, together with emigrants of later date, are still to be found in Cachar and Sylhet.

When war was declared against Burma by the British Government in 1824, and the Burmese had been expelled from Cachar, assistance in arms and money was given by the Company to Gambhir Singh in an attempt to recover possession of Manipur. In this he was successful, occupying not only the valley in which the capital is situated, but also the Kubo Valley down to the Ningthi or Chindwin river, lying to the east of the former boundaries of the State, and peopled by Shans (called Kabau in Manipuri). The treaty of Yandabu with Burma, executed in February 1826, declared (article II) that should Gambhir Singh desire to return to Manipur, he should be recognised by the king of Ava as Raja thereof.

Gambhir Singh being thus established on the throne, the levy with which he had effected the reconquest of his country was placed under the management of two British officers, and supplied with ammunition, and also with pay, by the British Government. In 1833 the British Government agreed to annex to Manipur the ranges of hills on the west, between the eastern and western bends of the Barak, giving that State the line of the Jiri and the western bend of the Barak as its boundary, on condition that the Raja removed all obstructions to trade between his State and Cachar, kept in repair the road between Manipur and British territory, and promised to assist the Government, in the event of war with Burma, both with carriage and with troops. In 1834 Gambhir Singh died, and his death was followed by the regency of Nar Singh, his minister, and a great grandson of Gharib Nawaz, on behalf of the dead

*Although the above is true of the present people of Manipur, there is some reason for believing that this territory was the road by which Hindu influence from the west was first brought to bear upon the Burmese races of the Irrawaddi Valley (see Phyyres', "History of Burma," pages 3, 4, and 15).

king's son, Chandra Kirti Singh, then one year old. In the same year, the British Government decided to restore the Kubo Valley to Burma, the Government of which had never ceased to remonstrate against its separation from that country. The valley was given back, and a new boundary laid down in the presence of British Commissioners by an agreement, dated the 9th January 1834, and at the same time the British Government bound itself to pay a monthly stipend of Rs. 500 to the Raja of Manipur in compensation for his loss. In 1835 the assistance formerly given to the Manipur levy was withdrawn, and a Political Agent was appointed to reside at Manipur.

In 1844 the Queen Dowager, widow of Gambhir Singh and mother of Chandra Kirti, attempted to poison Nar Singh, the Regent. Her attempt failed, and she fled from the country with her son. Nar Singh then assumed the *raj* in his own name, and ruled till his death in 1850. He was succeeded by his brother Debendra Singh; but this prince ruled for only three months, Chandra Kirti Singh, with the help of Nar Sing's three sons, succeeding in ejecting him and recovering possession of the throne. This was followed by some disorder in the State; but in February 1851 the Government of India decided upon recognising the succession of Chandra Kirti Singh, guaranteeing the *raj* to him and his descendants, and preventing, by force of arms if necessary, any attempts by rival chiefs to dislodge him.

In 1851 Debendra Singh's and Nar Singh's sons attempted a rising. In 1852 another attempt occurred, led by Kanhai Singh, son of Marjit, Gambhir Singh's brother. In 1857 some of the rebellious sepoys from Chittagong, who had found their way to Cachar, were used by one Narendrajit, a younger son of Chaurjit, to raise a disturbance. Narendrajit was transported. In 1859 Maipak, a descendant of Gharib Nawaz, invaded the valley, but was defeated and fled. In 1862 he again, in conjunction with another Rajputra, named Khaifa Singh, headed an attack, and penetrated to the Raja's palace, where he was captured. Kanhai Singh made another attempt in 1865, when his followers were attacked and dispersed by British troops and police. Another raid was perpetrated by Gokul Singh, a younger son of Debendra Singh, in 1866. His enterprise failed, like the rest, but he escaped for the time. He was captured in 1868, tried in Cachar, and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

In the Naga war of 1879 the Maharaja of Manipur distinguished himself by rendering loyal assistance to the British Government. He furnished a force, which, under the leadership of the Political Agent, Colonel (afterwards Sir James) Johnstone, raised the siege of Kohima by the Nagas, and prevented a great catastrophe. In recognition of this service, the Government of India bestowed upon Maharaja Chandra Kirti Singh the dignity of K. C. S. I. Another series of events, which gave occasion for much correspondence, was the raids of certain Kukis known as Chasads on the eastern frontier of Manipur territory. It was believed that these raids were abetted by the Shan Tsawbwa, or chief of Samjok in the Kubo Valley, and, as there was much indefiniteness in the frontier north of the Kubo Valley Proper as set forth in the agreement of 1834, it was determined by the Government of India to send a Commission to define and demarcate the boundary of Manipur in this direction. This task was accomplished in the cold weather of 1881-82, and the Burmese Government (who were invited to co-operate in the demarcation, but did not do so) were informed that the boundary so laid down would be maintained by the Government of India. The raiding Kukis, who were favoured in their enterprise by the uncertainty of the frontier, were found to be settled within Manipur territory, and some of them were induced to move further in, and were thus brought under stricter control.

On the death of Chandra Kirti Singh, in 1886, Bara Chauba, the eldest son of Nar Singh, who had been Maharaja from 1834 to 1850, made an attempt to get possession of the *gadi*, but was eventually defeated by a detachment of the Cachar Military Police, after which he gave himself up, and was deported, with his relatives, to Hazaribagh.

The rising of 1890.

In 1891 this little State suddenly sprang into notoriety in consequence of the outbreak which occurred in March in that year. In 1890 Sura Chandra was driven from the palace by the Jubraj and took refuge with the Political Agent. Contrary to the Agent's advice, he declared his intention of abdicating, and left Manipur for Brindaban. On reaching British territory, however, he repudiated his abdication and claimed the aid of the Government of India. It was decided to confirm the Jubraj as Raja, but the Chief Commissioner was instructed to remove from Manipur the Senapati, or Commander-in-Chief, who had instigated the revolution. In March 1891 Mr. Quinton, the Chief Commissioner, proceeded with an escort to Manipur and ordered the Senapati to appear before him. The Senapati refused to do so, and when troops were sent into the palace enclosure to effect his arrest, they were fiercely attacked by the Manipuris. The engagement continued till the evening. An

armistice was then agreed to, and the Chief Commissioner and four other officers were induced, under promise of safe conduct, to go unarmed to a durbar in the palace. No agreement being found possible, they started to return, but the crowd closed in, and one of the party was fatally wounded by a spear-thrust. The Chief Commissioner and his companions were then kept prisoners for two hours, after which they were beheaded by the public executioner in front of two stone dragons. The attack on the Residency was resumed, and the defenders, thinking it untenable, retreated to Cachar. A month later, Manipur was occupied by British troops and the persons implicated in the outrage were arrested. The Senapati and some others were executed, and the new Raja and his brothers were transported for life.

The future of the State had then to be considered, and it was eventually decided by the Government of India to regrant the State and to place upon the throne a youth named Chura Chand, a scion of a collateral line. This boy was sent for six years to be educated at Ajmir, and during his minority the administration of the State was conducted by the Political Agent. Numerous reforms, including the introduction of better judicial tribunals, the improvement of the land revenue administration, and the abolition of the system of *lalup*, or forced labour, etc., were effected. The boundaries between Manipur and Burma and the Chin and Lushai Hills were laid down, steps were taken to disarm the hill tribes and trade has been much stimulated, first by the construction of a cart-road from Kohima to Imphal, and subsequently by the opening of the Assam-Bengal Railway to Dimapur. Only one serious raid has occurred in Manipur territory during recent years, and that was in 1893, when a combination of Kuki villages surprised a village of Khoirao Nagas, against whom they professed to have a grievance, and killed 99 men and 187 women and children.

The Political Agent in Manipur was till 1879 only partly under the control of the Chief Commissioner, with whom he corresponded only in regard to matters connected with Assam and its frontier. In that year he was made directly subordinate to the Chief Commissioner. On the regrant of the State in 1891, his designation was changed to "Political Agent and Superintendent of the State."

On the 15th May 1907, the Superintendency came to an end and the administration of the State was made over to the Raja and the Darbar. The Raja was formally installed on the *gadi* on the 4th February 1908. The administration of the State is now conducted by the Darbar, consisting of the Raja as President, a Vice-President, who is a member of the Indian Civil Service and whose services are lent to the State by the Local Administration, three ordinary and three additional members, who are all Manipuris. The various departments are in charge of the President, the Vice-President and the three ordinary members, the Vice-President having the management of the hill tribes living within the State entirely in his own hands and being responsible for all matters of revenue and finance. The administration of justice is in the hands of the Darbar assisted by the subordinate courts of the *chirap* and the *panchayat*. The Darbar is the highest court in the State. It tries all criminal cases which are beyond the powers of the *chirap*, and hears appeals, both criminal and civil, from the orders of that court. The Darbar may pass sentences of death or imprisonment for life, but sentences of over five years' rigorous imprisonment must be reported to the Political Agent, who, if he sees fit, may refer the case to Government for orders. Sentences of death require the confirmation of the Local Administration. The *chirap* court tries all civil cases above Rs. 100 in value, and has powers in criminal cases to inflict punishment up to two years' rigorous imprisonment, or a fine of Rs. 500, or whipping, or any two or more of these punishments. The *panchayat* court tries all disputes of a civil nature not exceeding Rs. 100 in value and all criminal offences of a minor degree. The maximum fine which the court can inflict is Rs. 100. It can inflict no other kind of punishment.

Frontier States and Tribes.

163. The frontier States and tribes which adjoin the province of Assam, commencing at the north-west corner, are the following:

(1) Bhutan.
(2) Bhutias subject to Tibet,
(3) Independent Bhutias.
(4) Akas.
(5) Daflas.
(6) Apá Tanangs.
(7) Miris.
(8) Abors.
(9) Mishmis.
(10) Hkamtis.
(11) Singphos.
(12) Nagas.

South of the Naga territory, a portion of which is included in the British district of the Naga Hills, comes the Manipur State, and south and west of Manipur, adjoin-

ing the southern boundary of Cachar and a portion of Sylhet, is found the country of the Lushais, now forming a British district. West of the Lushai Hills and south of Sylhet lies the State of Hill Tippera.

Bhutan.

164. Although this State adjoins Assam to the north of the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, and Darrang, as far east as the Doisham river, no official intercourse other than complimentary interviews with local officials is kept up.

On the conquest of Assam, the northern portion of Kamrup, consisting of the Bijni, Chappakamar, Chapaguri, Banska, and Garkalia Duars, was found in possession of Bhutia chiefs, who paid a tribute of Rs. 3,049 yearly to the Assam Rajas. To the east of the Bornadi the two Duars of Khaling and Buriguma were held by the Bhutias for eight months of the year, and by the Assam Raja for the remaining four (the rainy season). The payment of tribute by the Bhutia Jongpens during the first fifteen years of our rule was very irregular, and the frontier was continually harassed by dacoities and outrages perpetrated on our subjects, which necessitated frequent armed reprisals. At last, in 1841, it was determined (since the possession of these tracts by the Bhutias was of recent date) to resume the Duars, and bring them under British management, paying to the Bhutan Government an annual sum of Rs. 10,000 as compensation for their loss. This sum was regularly paid until the outbreak of the Bhutan war in 1864, when it was stopped, and the seven Assam Duars (as well as the five Eastern Duars north of Goalpara, by name Guma, Ripu, Chirang, Sidli, and Bijni, and the seven Western Duars north of Koch Bihar) were finally annexed to British territory. At the same time the Fort of Dewangiri, which commands the passage down to the bazars of Kamrup, was occupied and retained as British territory.

The Bhutias come down during the cold weather for pasture and trade into the north of Kamrup and western Darrang, but few of them appear to visit the thinly-peopled submontane tract of Goalpara. Most of their trade is done at Subankhata, Kumori, Kata, and Genbari in the Kamrup district south of Dewangiri, and at Ghagrapara in Darrang. There are a few Bhutia settlements in British territory at the foot of the hills, but their condition is not very prosperous, and they seem to be a survival of the old days of Bhutia supremacy, rather than the beginning of a more extended immigration.

From time to time there have been complaints of high-handed conduct on the part of the Bhutias, who take advantage of the timorous nature of the villagers to force upon them chillies and salt and extort in exchange large quantities of rice and other articles. Military police outposts are maintained during the cold weather at Udalguri in Darrang, and at Darranga in Kamrup to prevent these exactions and give confidence to the people.

Bhutias subject to Tibet.

165. The Bhutias of the Kuriapara Duar, which lies east of Bhutan Proper and extends from the Doisham to the Rota river, are dependent upon Towang, which is a dependency of the Government of Lhassa. The chiefs of this Duar, called the Sat Rajas, used, like their neighbours of Bhutan Proper, to levy dues from the inhabitants of the adjoining plains. In 1844 their claims were bought out by the British Government on payment of an annual sum of Rs. 5,000. Our relations with these people since the composition of 1844 have only once been disturbed. In 1852 one of the Gelengs, or Tibetan officials appointed from Lhassa to supervise the local chiefs, having some misunderstanding with his superior, fled to British territory. His surrender was peremptorily demanded by the authorities of Lhassa, and a Tibetan army moved towards the frontier. A British force was assembled at Udalguri, with two guns. But no hostilities actually occurred. The Tibetans retired, the fugitive Geleng was removed to Gauhati, and the Duar was re-opened for trade. This pass is specially interesting, as it is the only place in many hundred miles of Himalayan barrier where the British power is in actual contact with Tibet. The hillmen, including Tibetans from the higher ranges, resort in considerable numbers, during the cold weather through this Duar to the annual fair at Udalguri, which lies due south of the gap through which the Dhansiri river issues from the hills.

Independent Bhutias.

166. Next to these Bhutias subject to Towang come the Sat Rajas of Charduar, chiefs who live at villages called by the people of the plains Rupraigaon and Shergaon. They claim to be independent of Towang, and rule the face of the hills from the Rota to the Diputa rivers. The Thebengia Bhutias are a distinct race, and live several days' journey within the hills, but they used, in conjunction with the Sat Rajas, to levy contributions from the people of the adjacent plains. From 1839 to 1844 these people were excluded from the plains by the British Government, in punishment for outrages committed by them. On their submitting and executing a formal agreement to refrain from aggressions, they received annual pensions,—the Shergaon

and Rupraigaon Bhutias of Rs. 2,526-7 a year, and the Thebengia Bhutias of Rs. 45-13-6. They come down annually to receive their pensions at Tezpur. They also hold an annual fair at a place beyond British territory, in the gorge of the Belsiri river, called Daimara, where some trade is done with the people of the plains, which is registered by a police post at the boundary pillar on the frontier.

Akas.

167. Next to the Bhutias come the Akas, who occupy the Sub-Himalayan region as far east as the issue of the Khari-Dikarai river. This tribe is divided into two sections, called by the Assamese the Hazarikhoas and the Kapaschors.* The former received a *posa*,† or stipend, from the Assam Rajas, and the latter levied contributions without having any such title. Both tribes are believed to be very limited in number ; but to the north of them is an allied race called the Mijis, of whose strength nothing certain is known. Though small, however, this tribe has a great reputation for violence and audacity. For many years Tagi Raja, the chief of the Kapaschor Akas, gave us much trouble by his robberies and murders in the plains. In 1829, he was captured and lodged for four years in the Gauhati Jail. In 1832, he was released in the hope that he had learnt a lesson and would be quiet in future ; but he immediately resumed his attacks, and in 1835 massacred all the inhabitants of the British village and police outpost of Balipara. For seven years after this he evaded capture, his tribe remaining outlawed in the hills. At length, in 1842, he surrendered, and it was decided to use his influence with the other chiefs to secure the peace of the border. An agreement was made, under which the Kapaschor Aka chiefs receive Rs. 520 a year as pension. The Hazarikhoas receive a pension of Rs. 180. Both tribes have certain small areas of land in the plains allotted to them for cultivation. The Kapaschors threatened in 1875 to give trouble, claiming an extensive tract of forest and other land on the Bhareli river, which was cut off by the demarcation of the boundary in 1874-75. Nothing further occurred at the time, and the new boundary was quietly accepted.

This dispute, however, coupled with one or two other grievances of a very minor nature, is believed to have been the cause of the acts of aggression which resulted in the expedition of 1883-84. In October 1883, Lakhidhar Mauzadar, who had visited the village of Medhi, the Kapaschor Aka chief, to ask him to supply articles for the Calcutta Exhibition and to send down a man and a woman to be modelled there, was forcibly detained, and shortly afterwards Medhi's brother, Chandi, carried off a clerk and forest ranger from Balipara. A punitive expedition was despatched and Medhi's village was occupied, the Akas taking refuge in the jungle. They gave up their captives (except Lakhidhar, who had died) and sent in some rifles and other articles which they had carried off ; but the chiefs themselves did not come in before the departure of the troops, which took place only fourteen days after their arrival, and appears to have been somewhat premature. The expedition was followed by a blockade of the frontier, which was maintained until 1888, when the Aka chiefs appeared before the Deputy Commissioner and tendered their submission. Since that time they are reported to have been well behaved and contented.

Daflas.

168. Next to the Akas come the Daflas, who, with the Hill Miris and the Abors occupy the whole of the rest of the sub-Himalayan hills until the Mishmi country is reached. These three races speak languages which are said to be mutually intelligible, and they are evidently, though differing in arms and style of dress, nearly akin. The Daflas and Miris were, like the Akas, in receipt of *posa*, or pensionary allowance under the Assam Government, as a condition of their refraining from aggression on the northern tracts of Darrang and Lakhimpur, and these allowances have been continued by the British Government. There are two divisions of the Daflas, one called the Paschim or Western Daflas, and the other the Tagin Daflas, who live to the east of these.

The Daflas committed frequent raids prior to 1852 when the *posa* question was finally settled, but since then they have seldom broken the peace. In 1870 and 1872 raids were committed by Tagin Daflas, not with the object of plundering alien inhabitants of the plains, but in pursuit of tribal quarrels. As a punishment for these raids a

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* The first of these names probably indicates that a thousand *gots* of *paiks*, or individual groups of revenue-payers, was set aside to provide a stipend for the tribe : *khoa* (eater) is the usual Assamese termination, indicating that a person is supported from the revenues of any place or people. *Kapaschor* means cotton-thief, this class of Akas being famous for their night attacks, in which they lurked in the cotton-fields with a primitive sort of dark lantern, waiting their opportunity.

† The word *posa* or *pacha* (পচা) literally means a collection or subscription for a common purpose ; it is probably connected with the word *panch* (five), and recalls the Mahratta *chauth*, or fourth. The word is still well understood in this sense in Upper Assam. In its special sense of payment to a hill tribe, it strictly denotes the subscription which the village raised in order to meet the customary demands of their visitors from the hills, in other words blackmail. It is not properly applicable to a fixed stipend, paid, as in these cases, by Government in accordance with treaty ; but it has now come to include such stipends.

blockade was instituted. This proved ineffectual and a military force was sent into the hills. The Daflas offered no active opposition and in the end surrendered their captives. Again in 1910 it proved necessary to despatch a small Military force to Dafla territory to exact reparation for raids on the camps of elephant catchers in the plains of Darrang and Lakhimpur. Daflas have settled in considerable numbers as Government raiyats.

Miris.

169. The name Hill Miri has been given to the inhabitants of the country watered by the Subansiri and Kamla rivers and their affluents. Until recently little was known of this race, and its representatives, who visit the North Lakhimpur Subdivision and receive an annual allowance, have always proved quiet and inoffensive. During the cold season of 1911-12 a friendly mission penetrated these hills and gained some information of the remoter villages.

The Hill Miris are to be distinguished from the Miris of the plains whose origin appears to have been in the Abor country, where they are supposed to have stood in a servile relation to the present inhabitants, to avoid which they have settled in large numbers in Upper Assam as British subjects. In the plains they still preserve their customs of building houses on piles, and of cultivation by *jhum*. They are expert and fearless boatmen, and always settle on the banks of a river. Retaining their own language among themselves, they also speak Assamese, to which is due the name by which they are known in Assam (Miri, or Mili, meaning go-between or interpreter), as they used to act as a channel of communication with Abors of the hills. The total number of Miris settled in Assam is 57,792, of whom all except about 5,000 are found in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur.

The Apa Tanangs.

The Apa Tanangs or Ankas occupy the fertile valley of the Kali river lying over 5,000 feet above sea-level and within five days' march of the North Lakhimpur Subdivision. A population of approximately 15,000 is massed in a few large villages. Alone of the tribes in their neighbourhood they practise the cultivation of rice on irrigated land, and of late years a brisk trade has sprung up with the plains. In 1896, to punish a raid, an expedition was sent to this country. No resistance was offered. The captives were surrendered and since then the behaviour of the tribe has been good.

Abors.

170. The term Abor, which means in Assamese an independent, remote, and unknown savage, is applied somewhat loosely to a number of tribes and clans, who occupy the hill east of the Miris as far as the Dibong river. They are divided into two principal groups,—Passi Minyong Abors west of the Dihong, and the Bor Abors or Padams between the river and the Dibong, while several Abor settlements have been founded in the plains. These tribes bear a very different character from the Miris, and the want of population on the north bank of the Brahmaputra from opposite Dibrugarh to Sadiya is chiefly due to dread of their raids. Murders and outrages committed by them on Government raiyats, in some cases close to the headquarters station of Dibrugarh, have led to several punitive expeditions. In 1858 one was sent to punish the massacre of a Bihia village by the Bor Minyong Abors, but was not successful in its object. In 1859 a second expedition was sent, and met with better fortune. In 1861 another massacre of Bihias, a few miles from Dibrugarh, on the south side of the Brahmaputra, occurred. This was followed by preparations for establishing a line of outposts along the north bank of the Brahmaputra, connected by a road, to guard against such attacks in future. The Abors appear to have been impressed by these operations. They made overtures, which were responded to, and a meeting took place in November 1862 between them and the Deputy Commissioner. A treaty was arranged with eight communities of the tribe, promising them, on condition of good behaviour, an annual allowance of iron hoes, salt, rum, opium and tobacco. Later, in November 1862 and in January 1863, some other powerful villages made similar agreements. The last concluded was made with the remaining communities in April 1866. All these agreements recite that the British territory extends to the foot of the hills. The allowance to the tribe is paid at the Darbar held annually at Sadiya ; but on several occasions the Abors have held sulkily aloof, and have not presented themselves at the Durbar.

In 1881 it was apprehended that certain villages of Abors, who had expressed an intention to cross the Dibong river and settle upon the hills beneath those occupied by the Chulikata Mishmis, would carry their hostilities with the latter tribe into British territory, and cut them off from access to Sadiya. The execution of this plan was prevented by the despatch of a mixed force of troops and police to occupy the post of Nizamghat where the Dibong river issues from the hills north of Sadiya, and another lower down, opposite the Abor village of Bomjur.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

In 1889 two Minyong villages combined to decoy four British subjects, Miris beyond the Inner Line, where they murdered them, the object apparently being to establish a claim for *posa*. A fine of 20 *mithans* was imposed upon them, and the whole of the Passi and Minyong Abor frontier was blockaded pending payment The fine was paid in less than a year. In 1893 the Abors east of the Dihong broke into open revolt. In November of that year three Military Police sepoys, while patrolling on the frontier, were waylaid and killed, it was believed, by Bebejiya Mishmis acting on the instigation of the Bor Abors, and in the following month another police party were attacked and one sepoy killed and one wounded, this outrage in this case being committed by some of the Bor Abors themselves. An expedition which was sent into their country occupied their principal villages after encountering a good deal of resistance, and as a further punishment blockade was imposed against the tribe in 1893, and was only withdrawn in 1900.

Relations with the Abor tribes showed signs of becoming closer, but in March 1911 Mr. Williamson, the Assistant Political Officer of Sadiya, accompanied by Dr. J. D. Gregorson, proceeded by invitation on a tour among the Minyong villages. The party was well received in the earlier stages of the journey, but, while Mr. Williamson was in Komsing, he was treacherously attacked, and he and all his party, except five of the coolies who made their escape through the jungle, were massacred. Dr. Gregorson and some sick coolies who had been left encamped a short distance back were also murdered. Information was speedily forthcoming to show that the massacre had been pre-arranged, and that all the Minyong villages were involved in the crime. A force of Military Police from the Lakhimpur Battalion advanced to Pasighat which was held during the rains, as it was impossible to advance in strength into the hills at that season. In the cold weather of 1911-12 a military expedition under the command of Major-General Bower, C.B., visited the Abor Hills, and exacted reparation for the murders. A considerable measure of survey and exploration was also done, and subsequently the consent of His Majesty's Secretary of State was obtained to the establishment of a measure of loose political control over these hills.

Mishmis.

171. The Mishmis, who occupy the hills from the Dibong to the Brahmakund in the north-eastern corner of the valley, are divided into three principal tribes, called respectively the Chulikata or crop-haired Mishmis, the Taiyeng or Digaru Mishmis, and the Miju Mishmis. Of recent years a smaller tribe known to the Assamese as the Bebejiya Mishmis, who inhabit the valleys of the Ithun and Ithu rivers, to the north-east of the Chulikatas, have come into prominence.

The Chulikata Mishmis were for a long time regarded as a particularly dangerous and hostile tribe, having, on several occasions, attacked Hkamti settlements in the neighbourhood of Sadiya, but it has since been ascertained that many of the outrages attributed to them were really committed by Bebejiyas. A blockade was imposed upon both the Chulikatas and the Bebejiyas in 1893, as they were believed to have taken part in the outrages committed by the Abors. In May 1899, a party of Bebejiya Mishmis raided the small hamlet of Mitaigaon in British territory, and murdered most of the inhabitants. A military expedition entered the Bebejiya country in 1899, but failed to secure any of the murderers, or to inflict any adequate punishment. One of the murderers was subsequently surrendered, and hanged at Sadiya. In July 1905 three British subjects were murdered by Bebejiyas near the Dikrang blockhouse, and it was suspected that this outrage was perpetrated to avenge the execution of the Mitaigaon murderer. The surrender of the murderers was demanded, but, as the demand was ignored, the Bebejiyas and the Chulikatas were both blockaded the following cold weather. The blockade was not finally removed until 1912.

It is reported that the Chulikatas own the land on both banks of the Dibong from Nizamghat up to the watershed of the river, and also a considerable extent of territory on the plains side of the Nizamghat gorge. They formerly owned all the country in that quarter as far as the Sisseri river, but were driven eastward by the Abors, to whom the Chulikatas on the right bank of the Dibong are now more or less subject. The tribal name of the Bebejiyas is Mithun, and that of the Chulikatas Midun. Although the two tribes are reported to resemble one another strongly in manners and customs and to speak the same language, the Chulikatas disdain all connection with the Bebejiyas, who, they say, are of Digaru origin. The Chulikatas are active traders and resort in considerable numbers to the fair at Sadiya. A good many Bebejiyas also traded with Sadiya before the blockade of 1893. It would appear that neither of these tribes is really so ill-disposed towards us as was formerly believed, and that many of the outrages which have been traced to them were acts of revenge for which a good deal of provocation had been given by our Hkamti subjects.

The Digaru Mishmis are a quiet, inoffensive people, and act as guides to pilgrims to the sacred gorge of the Brahmaputra known as the Brahmakund. In 1851, M. Krick, a French missionary, made a successful journey through the Miju country to the frontier of Tibet, and back to Assam, but in 1854, when he again visited Tibet with a colleague, M. Bourry, both were murdered on their return journey by a party of these Mishmis under a chief named Kai-i-sha. This outrage was avenged in February 1855 by an expedition under Lieutenant Eden, who with 20 Assam Light Infantry and 40 Hkamti volunteers, reached Kai-i-sha's village, stormed it, and took the murderer prisoner. In December 1885, Mr. F. J. Needham, Assistant Political Officer at Sadiya, accompanied by Captain E. H. Molesworth, Commandant of Military Police, and three police orderlies, succeeded in penetrating through the Miju Mishmi country and entering the Tibetan province of Zayul.

During the cold weather of 1911-1912 a friendly mission, following the route taken a year or two before by the late Mr. Williamson, travelled through the Miju country up the Lohit Valley to within a short distance of Rima. A large amount of valuable survey was done.

The Digaru Mishmis carry on trade with Sadiya, while the Mijus have little or no intercourse with Sadiya, but trade with the Tibetans of Zayul. The Digarus, on the other hand, are believed to have little direct intercourse with Tibet. None of the Mishmi tribes receive any *posa*, nor do formal treaties or agreements with them exist.

Hkamtis.

172. The Hkamtis settled about Sadiya have already been mentioned in paragraph 73 of this report. They are immigrants from the Shan State beyond the Patkoi range, formerly tributary to Burma, and known to the Assamese as Bor Hkamti. They are of the same race as the Ahoms, but differ from the latter in being Buddhists. They are a literary and cultivated people, and much more civilised than any of their neighbours. They first settled in Sadiya during the latter part of the eighteenth century. When the Burmese were expelled from Assam, the Hkamti Gohain, or chief of Sadiya, executed an agreement of allegiance to the British Government, and Sadiya was selected as the residence of the Political Agent in Upper Assam. In 1839, after the death of the Hkamti chief, with whom we made the agreement, the Hkamtis of Sadiya suddenly rose, and massacred the Political Agent, Colonel White, and many of his guards and attendants. A war followed, ending in the transportation of the Hkamti chief's son and his followers to a distant part of British territory. In 1843 some chiefs of this race were again allowed to settle about Sadiya, and in 1850 a new immigration from Bor Hkamti took place. The Hkamtis living about Sadiya and Saikwa are British raiyats, and pay revenue. Those living on the Tengapani beyond the Inner Line acknowledge allegiance to the British Government, but pay no revenue. The last census showed 1,868 Hkamtis to be resident in Assam.

Phakials and Turungs.

173. The Phakials, or Phake, are said to have left Mogaung for Assam about 1760A.D., immediately after the subjugation of that province by Alomphra. Colonel Hannay tells us that, prior to their immigration into this province, they were resident on the banks of the Turungpani, and were thus apparently near neighbours of the Turungs. On reaching Assam, they at first settled on the banks of the Buri Dihing, whence they were brought by the Ahoms, and settled near Jorhat. When the Burmese invaded Assam, the Phakials and other Shan tribes were ordered by the Burmese authorities to return to Mogaung, and they had got as far as their old settlement on the Buri Dihing when the province was taken by the British. Their language closely resembles that of the other northern Shans. Like the Hkamtis and Turungs, they are Buddhists. They seldom marry outside their own community, and, as this is very small, their physique is said to be deteriorating. They are adepts in the art of dyeing.

The Turungs immigrated into the province less than seventy years ago. Their own tradition is that they originally came from Mungmang Khaosang on the north-east of Upper Burma, and settled on the Turungpani, whence the name by which they are now known. While there, they received an invitation from the Noras, who had preceded them and settled near Jorhat, and in consequence they started across the Patkoi *en route* for the Brahmaputra Valley. They were, however, taken prisoners by the Singphos and made to work as slaves, in which condition they remained for five years. They were released by Captain Neufville, along with nearly 6,000 Assamese slaves, in 1825, and continued their journey to the Jorhat subdivision, where they are still settled.

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Singphos.

174. The Singphos, who live intermixed with the Hkamtis on the New and Old Dihings, the Tengapani, and the mountains beyond, are, like the latter, but an outlying branch of the main population of the same race who occupy in force the hilly country between the Patkoi and Chindwin river, where they are nominally subject to Burma. To the Burmese they are known as *Kakhyens*, and *Singpho* is but the word in their language meaning "man." They are, apparently, from what is known of their language, related to the Naga tribes in their neighbourhood, to whom, however, they stand distinctly in the position of masters and superiors. Where brought in contact with the Hkamtis, they have borrowed something of the civilisation and outward appearance of the latter, and have also in some cases been converted to Buddhism. They are, however, probably quite distinct by race.

The Singphos are recent arrivals in Assam, having made their appearance at the head of the valley during the troubles of Raja Gaurinath Singh with the Moamarias about 1793. It was through their country that the Burmese invaders passed into Assam in 1818 and 1822, and the ravages of the Singphos, added to those of the Burmese, contributed greatly to the depopulation of the Matak country and Sibsagar. When Assam was conquered from the Burmese, the chiefs of the Singphos, after several engagements with our troops, tendered their allegiance, and entered into agreements not to disturb the peace of the frontier. Great numbers of Assamese slaves, who had been carried off by them in the early years of the century, were released, and the wealth and power of the tribe were in this manner much reduced. In 1839 they joined the Hkamtis in their attack on Sadiya; but by 1842 they had again been brought to acknowledge their subjection. Many of the Singpho immigrants, with whom agreements were made in 1826, have since retired across the frontier into Hukong.

The Duanias, or Singpho-Assamese half-breeds (so called from Assamese *duan* = language, because they act as interpreters), are the offspring of intercourse between these slaves and their captors. They are chiefly settled along the Buri or Old Dihing, and are quiet subjects.

The now universal habit of opium-eating is believed to have contributed largely to the present pacific attitude of the Singphos and Hkamtis. The chiefs of the Singphos and Hkamtis meet annually at the full moon of *Magh* (in the end of January or beginning of February) at Sadiya to present themselves, with the chiefs of the Mishmi and Abor tribes, before the Assistant Political Officer, who receives their offerings, and gives them in return small presents. They pay no revenue except where settled within the Inner Line.

Nagas.

175. The tribes known to the Assamese as Nagas stretch uninterruptedly from the Patkoi along the southern frontier of the Lakhimpur and Sibsagar districts, to the valley of the Dhansiri and North Cachar. Of the Nagas in the British district of the Naga Hills (the Angamis, Kacha Nagas, Rengmas, Semas, Lhotas, and Aos) mention has already been made. Until 1904 political control was exercised by the Deputy Commissioner of the Naga Hills over an area inhabited principally by Angamis and Semas. In that year this area was regularly included in the Naga Hills district, as was also a strip beyond to the east and south of the district. A few years later a small tract of country east of the Dikhu river was formally annexed. From the Tirap river eastward to the Patkoi, the Nagas are completely in subjection to the Singphos. West of this point begins a succession of groups of villages known to the Assamese by the names of the passes or Duars through which their inhabitants resort to the plains,—as the Namsangias, Borduarias, Paniduarias, Mithonias, Banpheras, Jobokas, Bhitarnamsangias, Jaktungias, Tablungias, Assiringias, etc. The outer tribes of this region are in constant communication with the plains, and in the times of the Assam Rajas used to make annual offerings of elephants' tusks and other such articles. They do a considerable trade in cotton and other hill produce, and carry back large quantities of salt and rice. The inner tribes, known to the Assamese as *Abors* or wild men, are kept from access to the plains by these outer or *Bori* (subject, civilised) Nagas, who thus keep the carrying trade in their own hands. These outer Nagas also come down in considerable numbers to labour in tea plantations and on roads during the cold weather. Unlike the Angamis, Aos, and Lhotas, who are democratic in their social economy, many of the eastern Nagas appear to acknowledge the authority of Rajas and minor chiefs among themselves.

With the internal affairs of these people we hardly meddle at all; but they are prohibited from carrying their quarrels into the settled British territory, and, if they do so, are tried and punished by our courts. On this frontier, a system prevails by which the Nagas of each group have allotted to them certain Assamese Agents, called *kotokis*, who manage small plots of revenue free land called *Naga khats*, on behalf

of the tribes. When the attendance of the chief in the hills is required for any purpose, he is summoned through the *kotoki*. If satisfaction for robberies and other outrages is not in this way obtained, the Duar or pass through which the tribe visits the plains is blocked, and no one is allowed to come down or go up. This system has rarely failed to secure reparation, and, on the whole, the conduct of the Nagas on this frontier has been peaceable and quiet, so far as the settled lands of the plains are concerned. Among themselves, however, their feuds are incessant, and are only composed to break out anew. The easternmost tribes of Borduarias and Namsangias have thus been prosecuting a quarrel for over fifty years, each group taking, when it can, the lives and heads of some of the others. With these feuds it has not been our policy to meddle, though attempts have occasionally been made to mediate between contending tribes.

Hill Tippera.

176. With the State of Hill Tippera this Administration has no direct relations. All communications for the Raja are forwarded through the Government of Bengal. The State is coterminous with Sylhet, along the whole of the southern border of that district, and considerable intercourse takes place up and down the valleys of the rivers which flow northwards from the Tippera Hills. The Raja's boundary was laid down on this side by a joint Commission in 1865-66. The Raja is the zemindar of considerable estates in Sylhet, and is to that extent subject to our revenue jurisdiction.

The Inner Line.

177. The Inner Line is a boundary which, in accordance with the policy to which effect was given by Regulation V of 1873, has been laid down in certain districts as that up to which the protection of British authority is guaranteed, and beyond which, except by special permission, it is not lawful for British subjects to go. The Inner Line Regulation was the result of much correspondence between the Government of Bengal and that of India on the subject of frontier policy. It was believed that many complications were caused by permitting persons from the plains to penetrate into the hills or submontane forests inhabited or frequented by wild tribes, where no effective protection could be given by Government, and where disputes relating to buying and selling frequently occurred. At the time the Regulation was passed the great demand and competition for India-rubber brought down by the hillmen gave special prominence to these considerations; and it was decided that the best way to prevent such complications was to stop, as far as possible, the access of strangers to tracts where adequate control could not be exercised. An Inner Line has been laid down in the following districts:—In Darrang, towards the Bhutias, Akas, and Daflas; in Lakhimpur, towards the Daflas, Miris, Abors, Mishmis, Hkamtis, Singphos, and Nagas; in the Sibsagar Subdivision of the Sibsagar district, towards the Nagas. The Inner Line formerly maintained along the Lushai border has since 1895 been allowed to fall into desuetude. The line is marked at intervals by frontier posts held by Military Police and commanding the roads of access to the tract beyond; and any person from the plains who has received permission to cross the line has to present his pass at these posts.

SECTION 9.—Relation with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

FEUDATORY STATES.

MANIPUR.

178. [Tribute:—Rs. 50,000 annually. Population (1911) 346,222. Gross revenue (average for last five years).—Rs. 463,367. Military:—224 Military Police. Products:—Rice, *dal*, vegetables, rubber, wax, tea-seed and other forest products, ponies, cattle and buffaloes. Manufactures:—Cotton cloth, silk cloth, brass, and other metal utensils, a few articles of ivory and jewellery, some leather work and coarse salt. Minerals:—Iron, limestone, copper and salt, but iron and copper are not worked.

Raja.—His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh, aged 26 years; caste Kshatriya. The Raja by his second wife, Rani Chingakhom Sayama Sakhi, has two sons, the first aged about four years and the second about two years, two daughters by his first wife, Rani Ngangbom Dhanamanjuri Ibemacha and a daughter by his third wife, Rani Ngangbom Preo Sakhi.]

General.

During the year 41 unlicensed guns and 3 licensed guns were confiscated. There were at the end of the year 941 licensed guns in the State.

Hill Tribes.

The conduct of the Hill Tribes was generally satisfactory, and the Kukis in the unadministered Somra tract gave no trouble.

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Administration of the land revenue.

During the year 3,422 *bighas* of waste land were taken up for cultivation and petitions for the relinquishment of 3,841 *bighas* were received. The current demand of the year was Rs. 3,16,875 and the percentage of collection 97 62. The total arrears at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 8,990. The number of revenue cases for disposal rose from 4,319 to 5,568, the increase being probably due to the increased value of land on account of the high price of rice. The Jirighat settlement continued to make satisfactory progress. According to the recent survey there are 14,346 *bighas* of settled lands. Some 300 new settlers came during the year while the old settlers improved and extended their holdings.

The current demand of house tax was Rs. 70,111 as against Rs. 69,869 in the preceding year. House tax was levied at the same rate as in former years, namely, Rs. 3 on all houses in the hills and annas ten on all Nagas and Kukis cultivating land in the Valley or in Jiribam.

Production and Trade.

The rainfall of the year was normal and the outturn of rice in the valley good, although in places the crop was somewhat damaged by insects. There was, however, an almost complete failure of the rice crop in the villages of the south-west hill tracts which are chiefly Kuki. Scarcity first manifested itself in the Kuki villages near the Lushai border, in the latter part of October 1911, and thence rapidly spread to the north and east. The failure of the crop was due to the ravages of rats, attracted in the first instance by the seeding of the wild bamboo. In November 1911 arrangements were made with traders of Lakhipur (Cachar) for the supply of rice to the hill men on credit from their depôts on the Barak river and near Jirighat. In January 1912 similar arrangements were made with shop-keepers at Imphal and Moirang. Subsequently, 5,000 maunds of rice were purchased by the State from Silchar merchants and distributed to the affected villages. Nothing approaching an actual state of famine occurred, as the people were able to eke out their supply of rice with edible roots obtained in the jungle, until the millet and maize ripened. The crops in the north-west hills also failed partially, but the distress in that area was not acute.

The Manipur Company, Limited, proved unable to work its silk venture at a profit. In spite of the advantageous terms of land tenure offered to the raiyats last year, conditionally on their putting down mulberry, only 314 *bighas* of new land were taken up for this purpose. Weaving is a considerable industry in Manipur, but the attempt to introduce improved hand looms has not as yet produced any noticeable result. Only 10 women attended the weaving school to work under the two instructresses trained last year.

During the year 108,086 maunds of rice, 3,741 cattle (including buffaloes) and 114 ponies were exported.

The terms of the lease of the copper mine on the Burma border have not yet been finally settled.

Finance.

The gross total revenue of the State was Rs. 5,18,626, as against Rs. 4,95, 526 in the preceding year. The receipts from land revenue increased by nearly seven thousand rupees. A prosperous year resulted in smaller remissions and a higher percentage of collections.

The export taxes on rice and cattle realised Rs. 27,000 against Rs. 22,000 in 1910-1911.

Receipts under the head "Hill Tribes" increased by over four thousand rupees principally on account of a higher demand consequent on the greater number of recorded houses. The revenue from fisheries also increased by more than eight thousand rupees.

There was a fall in the income from forests on the Cachar border, which forms the bulk of the revenue under the head "Forests." The scheme for the preservation and proper working of these forests is still under the consideration of Government. Receipts under the heads "Law and Justice" and "Excise" decreased.

The total expenditure was Rs. 5,46,795, as against Rs. 4,56,863 in the previous year, the large increase being mainly due to the Delhi Durbar and the water-works. In spite of these extra expenses, the reserve was depleted to the extent of only Rs. 28,169, the closing balances on the 31st March 1911 and the 31st March 1912 being, respectively, Rs. 3,31,125 and Rs. 3,02,956.

Sanitation.

The water-works for Imphal were not completed, owing to the delay caused by the Contractors. Considerable progress was, however, made with the scheme.

Education and Miscellaneous.

There were no changes in the educational arrangements. The cost to the State of education was on all accounts Rs. 36,135 compared with Rs. 33,140 in the preceding year.

The Veterinary Assistant treated 2,207 animals. The Veterinary dispensary proved a decided success.

FRONTIER TRIBES.

179. The principal event of the year was the despatch of a military expedition under the command of Major-General Bower, C.B., into the Abor Hills to avenge the murder of Mr. Williamson and the party with him. Friendly Missions at the same time visited the Mishmi and the Miri Hills.

Bhutias.

The usual fair was held at Darranga. A slight increase in trade was reported. *Posa* amounting to Rs. 5,000 was distributed to the Bhutia Gallengs at the annual Durbar at Udalguri, and the Charduar and Thebengia Bhutias received their *posa* amounting respectively to Rs. 2,526-7-0, and Rs. 145-13-6 in Tezpur.

Akas.

180. The Hazarikhoa and Kapaschor Akas received their *posa* amounting to Rs. 164 and Rs. 536, respectively, and exchanged the usual presents with the Deputy Commissioner.

Daflas.

181. Owing, it is said, to the existence of scarcity in the hills on the Darrang Frontier more Daflas than usual came down to receive their *posa*. There was little to complain of in the behaviour of the Daflas. Several Dafla villages on the Lakhimpur Frontier were visited by the Miri Mission and a coolie who had been kidnapped and detained as a slave for about a year was released. The man who detained the coolie was sentenced to a year's imprisonment and the *posa* of the village concerned has been stopped. Ten Daflas were allowed to settle within the Inner Line. The Daflas who bring firewood into North Lakhimpur were required to take out permits under the rules of the Forest Department.

Miris and Apa Tanangs.

182. The account of the Miri Mission dealt at some length with the Apa Tanangs and the Hill Miris.

Abors.

183. Our relations with the Abors are dealt with in the various accounts of the Abor Expedition. As usual a certain number of slaves escaped to the plains, and these were, except for special reasons, made to pay suitable ransoms to their former masters.

Mishmis.

184. The conduct of the various Mishmi tribes is dealt with in the account of the Mishmi Mission. The blockade which was in force against the Bebejiyas for five years for a murder committed by some of them has, since the close of the year, been withdrawn.

Hkamtis.

185. The Hkamtis gave no trouble, but on the contrary were of great assistance in helping to clear the road along which the Mishmi Mission marched.

Singphos.

There is nothing to report about these people.

Nagas.

186. The Barduarias, Namsangias and Bormithunias were well-behaved, and parties came down as usual in the cold weather to cut jungle on tea gardens.

Naga Hills.

The year was uneventful, and no trans-frontier expedition was undertaken. The guard which was posted at Melomi in the cold weather of 1909-1910 was withdrawn. Our relations with the independent tribes on the borders of the district were friendly. Across the frontier raiding, head-taking and the burning of villages were as frequent as ever. No progress was made in the administration of the newly annexed tract of country to the east of the Dikhu, but sanction was given to the construction of a suspension bridge over the Dikhu river, and a road from Tamlu through the newly acquired territory into the Sibsagar district.

Garo Hills.

187. The Garos were quiet and well-behaved during the year.

Lushai Hills.

188. The year was uneventful politically. Proposals for demarcating the southern boundary beyond Sherkor were approved.

Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

189. The year was uneventful politically. The Siems generally behaved well.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the People.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1911-12.]

Condition of the people.

190. The general conditions of the year were on the whole favourable to cultivation although the rice crops suffered from floods, insects and rats in certain localities. The outturn of winter rice was good throughout the Assam Valley Division but was below the average in the Surma Valley. In the Lushai Hills and the adjacent country bamboos seeded and died after some 30 years, causing a plague of rats which fell upon and destroyed the standing crops. The outturn of mustard and jute was fair and the year was a prosperous one for tea.

The condition of the cultivating and labouring classes was fairly good in all districts except the Lushai Hills, where scarcity of a severe type occurred owing to the damage caused by rats to the food-crops. Gratuitous relief in rice and agricultural advances, amounting to about Rs. 1,45,440, were granted in order to meet the situation. In Kamrup and Darrang a remission of land revenue, amounting to Rs. 6,499, was sanctioned on account of the damage caused to crops by floods. The wages of labourers remained high throughout the year as in the previous year, while the prices of the principal food-stuffs fell to some extent.

The migration of Muhammadan cultivators from Eastern Bengal continued. Many Santhals migrated from the districts of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar and settled in the Eastern Duars of Goalpara and a large number of cultivators from Mymensingh, Cachar and Sylhet have settled in Nowgong.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION 1.—Realisation of the Revenue.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1911-12.]

191. An account of the total demand and collection of land revenue will be found under Chapter V, "Revenue and Finance."

During the year there was an addition of 11·5 square miles to the revenue-paying area and the revenue demand rose from Rs. 68,56,899 to Rs. 69,37,552.

The incidence of revenue per square mile at the end of 1911-12 was Rs. 571·98, as compared with Rs. 565·37 in the previous year.

Permanently-settled estates.

192. There were at the close of the year 49,901 permanently-settled estates, covering an area of 6,141·22 square miles, with a revenue demand of Rs. 3,76,546. With a solitary exception, all the permanently-settled estates lie in the districts of Sylhet and Goalpara. The exception is a small estate of this class which falls within the jurisdiction of the Garo Hills. The revenue of the estates in the Garo Hills and Goalpara was collected in full during the year without resort to coercive measures. In Sylhet, where the estates are generally very small and contain a large number of separate accounts, the percentage of current collections on current demand fell from 75·31 to 74·40, while the percentage of arrear collections showed a slight improvement.

Temporarily-settled estates.

193. The total area of temporarily-settled estates rose from 3,392,760 acres to 3,419,331 acres and the revenue assessed from Rs. 61,76,111 to Rs. 62,52,802; current collections showed a slight improvement, but the year closed with an arrear demand which exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 65,224. The colonisation by Santhals, Nepalese and other settlers of the Eastern Duars of Goalpara made rapid progress, the area settled with them being 13,099 acres as against 6,998 acres in the preceding year. Under special settlements, there was an increase of 1,631 acres in area and of Rs. 1,909 in revenue. The expansion of cultivation in the Nambor forest is still very slow.

Hill districts.

194. In the hill districts there were 12,694 estates with a total revenue demand of Rs. 68,568. The total collections decreased from Rs. 47,560 to Rs. 45,631 during the year.

Remittances of revenue and local rates by special money-orders.

195. The system of remitting revenue and local rates by money orders through the post office is in force in Sylhet only. The number of such money orders rose from 3,091 to 3,258 during the year, while the amount covered by them fell from Rs. 11,013 to Rs. 9,680.

Coercive means employed for the collection of land revenue.

196. The number of notices of demand issued under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation decreased by 4,345. There was also a decrease in the number of cases in which property was attached, but the number of cases in which property was sold was greater.

Serving of process.

197. The total number of processes served and the value of the process-fees realized during the year were 181,667 and Rs. 1,27,235, respectively, against 167,917 and Rs. 1,17,096 in the preceding year. The cost of the process-serving establishment increased by Rs. 1,947, partly owing to the revision of ministerial establishments and partly to the amalgamation of the civil and revenue nazarats. The total sum realised from process-fees, however, exceeded the cost of the establishment by Rs. 67,101.

Miscellaneous land revenue (including hill districts).

198. The total miscellaneous land revenue demand for the year was Rs. 6,35,815 and the total aggregate collections amounted to Rs. 6,22,599 as against Rs. 6,01,658 in the previous year.

Loans.

199. No loans were made during the year under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The loans given out under the Agriculturists' Loans Act amounted to Rs. 3,88,271, and, out of a total debit of Rs. 4,88,188 outstanding, Rs. 76,369 were recoverable during the year. Of this amount, Rs. 47,613 were actually recovered, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,40,575 at the close of the year.

Other revenue work.

200. The reclamation of the area improved by the opening of Moamarijan and other channels in the north of Kamrup still continues. A sum of Rs. 8,339 was sanctioned for the repairs of the Kharoi *bund* in the Gohpur mauza of the district of Darrang.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

201. The number of mutation cases which were disposed of locally by summary procedure fell from 39,868 to 37,913 during the year. The district of Cachar alone is responsible for the decrease which is partly attributed to the Land Records staff having been engaged in census operations and partly to a decrease in the number of transfers. The number of cases dealt with in court rose from 8,093 to 9,206.

Land registration.

Partitions.

202. Omitting summary partitions effected on the spot under Rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual, there were 244 applications for partition made during the year against 208 in the previous year. Out of a total of 432 cases for disposal, 236 were disposed of during the year.

SECTION 2.—Surveys and Settlements.

[*See* Reports on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Assam for the year ending 30th September 1912.]

203. The programme in the Lakhimpur district comprised the skeleton survey of 122 tea grants, but owing to the extreme difficulty of locating the grants there still remain, so far as is known at present, 32 grants to be surveyed in order to complete this district.

In addition, thirteen other surveys, mostly linear relaying work, were executed in the several districts of Assam.

At a conference held in Shillong on June 10th, 1912, a number of questions relating to survey administration in the province were considered and upon most of them the Chief Commissioner has already passed orders. It is hoped that it will now be possible to rearrange the systems of the past and to place survey work generally upon a really sound basis.

204. The Shillong Drawing office printed 41,632 copies of village maps for Assam, and, in addition, carried out a great deal of work for other Departments of Government. Owing to the territorial changes which came into force from the 1st April 1912, it is impossible to give actual figures for miscellaneous work, as previous to that date separate figures were not kept for Eastern Bengal and for Assam work.

205. In paragraph 48 of the Eastern Bengal and Assam General Administration Report for 1910-11, the question of survey education was mentioned. It has since been decided to institute a central school for land-surveying education at Gauhati, and to place it under the Director of Surveys.

206. The most important work engaging the attention of the Settlement Department was the resettlement of the Lakhimpur district. The resettlement operations, which were started in November 1908, were brought to a close during the year under review, and resulted in an increase of 11·43 per cent. in the revenue assessed on ordinary cultivation in the district. The area covered by the proceedings amounted to 709 square miles and the nett cost of the operations to Rs. 1,94,557.

207. The resettlement of Dibrugarh town was undertaken in March 1912 and was still under progress at the end of the year.

208. In Cachar the leases of 57 *jangalburi* mahals, covering an area of a little over 4 square miles, fell in and were resettled by the Deputy Commissioner with the assistance of the ordinary Land Records staff.

209. In Sylhet the resettlement of 2,450 petty scattered estates, covering an area of 31½ square miles, which were not dealt with during the last Ilam Settlement, has been in progress since February 1908. There has been undue delay in completing the resettlement of these estates, but the work is now being pushed on vigorously and should be finished by the end of the next field season.

210. Extension surveys were carried out by local agency in 6 districts, the actual area surveyed being 27 square miles.

SECTION 3.—Land Records.

Land Records.

211. During the year under report 19 additional mandals, 1 in Kamrup, 2 in Sibsagar and 16 in Lakhimpur, were entertained, the number actually employed being 1,170, and an additional Kanungo was sanctioned for the Lakhimpur district. The Land Records staff in Sylhet was revised and redistributed among subdivisions.

SECTION 4.—Settlements for special cultivation (Waste Lands).

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1911-12.]

Settlement for special cultivation.

212. The total area settled for special cultivation was 1,136,259 acres, the revenue demand thereon being Rs. 6,82,785. There was increase of 12,727 acres in area and of Rs. 16,886 in revenue over the figures of the previous year, due respectively to new settlements and progressive assessments. The increase in area occurred chiefly in the districts of Sylhet, Darrang and Lakhimpur.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

Nil.

SECTION 6.—Wards' Estates.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1911-12.]

Revenue, rent and cesses.

213. There were altogether five estates under the management of the Court of Wards, *viz.*, the Prithimpasa, Kumar Gopika Raman Roy, Golam Rabbani, Pallakandi and Ilias Ali Khan estates, all of which are in the district of Sylhet. No new estate was taken under the management of the Court of Wards, nor was any estate released during the year.

The total revenue and cess demand, including an arrear demand of Rs. 294 due to Government, was Rs. 21,621. Payments amounted to Rs. 21,457 or 100·6 per cent. on the current demand, as compared with 96·8 per cent. in the preceding year. Payments on account of rent and cesses to superior landlords were made in full.

Collections.

214. The total demand on account of rents and cesses due to all the 5 estates, including an arrear demand of Rs. 2,38,273, amounted to Rs. 5,02,534; of this sum Rs. 2,12,827 or 80·5 per cent. on the current demand, as against 95·4 per cent. in 1910-11, were collected and Rs. 38,789 remitted as being barred or otherwise irrecoverable. Excepting the estate of the late Maulvi Golam Rabbani Chaudhuri, the collections in all the estates were bad and the balances unduly large. The balance outstanding at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 2,50,918 or 94·9 per cent. on the current demand against 97·1 per cent. in the previous year.

Debts.

215. The total debts, excluding Government revenue and cesses, due from all estates at the close of the year was Rs. 7,18,048, of which the estate of Kumar Gopika Raman Roy is alone responsible for Rs. 6,48,605. During the year debts amounting to Rs. 2,73,919 were paid off. Of this sum Rs. 2,72,590 were paid by the Kumar and Golam Rabbani estates, the money being principally obtained from loans contracted on favourable terms.

Management charges and improvements.

216. Management charges rose from 12·2 to 14·7 of the current demand, due to the change in the system of management introduced during the year, by which all the estates were placed under a European General Manager with an Assistant for each estate under him. The Prithimpasa estate is the only estate which was able to afford a liberal expenditure on schools, dispensaries and other works of utility. The education of the minor wards was carefully attended to.

SECTION 7.—Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1911-12.]

Material condition of the people.

217. The condition of the cultivating and labouring classes was fairly good in all districts except in the Lushai Hills, where scarcity of a severe type prevailed owing to the damage caused by rats to the food crops. The wages of labourers ruled high throughout the year as in the previous year, while the prices of the principal foodstuffs were lower than in 1910-11.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

SECTION I.—Legislative Authority.

Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council.

218. On the creation of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam a Legislative Council was established by a Proclamation of the Governor General of India in Council, published in the *Gazette of India* under Notification No. 2832, dated the 1st September 1905. The provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, regarding the making of Laws and Regulations in Madras and Bombay, were extended to the province, and the Lieutenant-Governor was authorised to nominate fifteen Councillors for legislative purposes, the nominations to be subject to the sanction of the Governor General. The Proclamation was declared to take effect from the 16th day of October 1905, but the Council was not actually formed until 1906.

By Regulations made under the Indian Councils Act, 1892, which were published on the 16th October 1905, it was provided—

(1) that not more than seven of the fifteen Members should be officials;

(2) that nominations to six seats should be made on the recommendation of the Commissioners of the Port of Chittagong, of such local bodies (Municipal Corporations and District and Local Boards), and of such associations of landholders, merchants, manufacturers and tradesmen as the Lieutenant-Governor might from time to time prescribe by notification in the *Eastern Bengal and Assam Gazette*; and

(3) that the remaining seats reserved for non-official members should be filled by persons nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor, in such a manner as would, in his opinion, secure a fair representation of the different classes of the community.

The same Regulations made it a condition that the persons, recommended by the Municipal Corporations and by the District Boards, must be local residents.

No change was made until the 15th November 1909, when the Indian Councils Act, 1909, was brought into operation. This Act provided that the Legislative Council should contain in addition to members nominated in the manner provided by the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892, members elected in accordance with regulations made under the Act. The maximum number of members, nominated and elected, of the Legislative Council of Eastern Bengal and Assam was fixed at fifty, but the actual strength of the Council was forty members, made up as follows:—

A.—Eighteen members to be elected by the classes specified below—

(i) The Commissioners of the Port of Chittagong.

(ii) The Municipal Commissioners.

(iii) The District and Local Boards.

(iv) The Landholders.

(v) The Muhammadan Community.

(vi) The Tea Interest.

(vii) The Jute Interest.

B.—Not more than twenty-two members to be nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor, with the sanction of the Governor General, of whom—

(*a*) not more than seventeen might be officials, and

(*b*) one had to be a non-official person to be selected from the Indian Commercial Community.

In addition, the Lieutenant-Governor was permitted to nominate two more persons, either official or non-official, having expert knowledge of subjects connected with proposed or pending legislation. It was further provided that the majority of all the members of the Council might not be officials.

The province was represented on the Imperial Legislative Council by three members elected respectively by—

(i) the non-official Members of the Council;

(ii) the Landholders of the province;

(iii) the Muhammadans of the province.

The province had also a nominated official representative.

Under section 5 of the Indian Councils Act, 1909, rules were framed for the discussion of the annual financial statement and of matters of general public interest, and amended rules under sections 37 and 48 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, for the conduct of business were also framed. The right to put supplementary questions was conceded. The term of office of members was extended from two to three years, but a member elected to fill a casual vacancy could sit only for the unexpired portion of the outgoing member's term.

Assam Legislative Council.

219. After the re-constitution of Assam as a separate province a Legislative Council was established by a Proclamation of the Governor General of India in Council, published in the *Gazette of India* under Notification No. 2642, dated the 14th November 1912. The provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 to 1909, were extended to Assam, and by a notification of the Government of India, published under Notification No. 2643, dated the 14th November 1912, it was proclaimed that the territories administered by the Chief Commissioner were, for the purposes of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, constituted a province to which the provisions of that Act touching the making of Laws and Regulations for the peace and good government of the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay should be applicable. The 14th day of November 1912 was declared to be the time at which the application of the said provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, to the said territories should take effect.

Regulations made under the Indian Councils Act, 1909, and published on the 23rd November 1912, provide that the Legislative Council of the Chief Commissioner of Assam shall ordinarily consist of—

A.—Eleven members to be elected as follows :—

	Members.
(i) By the Municipal Commissioners	2
(ii) By the Local Boards	2
(iii) By the Landholders	2
(iv) By the Muhammadan Community...	2
(v) By the Tea-planting Community	3

B.—Thirteen members to be nominated by Government, of whom not more than nine may be officials.

In addition one more person, whether official or non-official, having expert knowledge of subjects connected with proposed or pending legislation, may be nominated as a member. The Chief Commissioner is restricted from nominating so many officials that the majority of all the members of the Council shall be officials.

The province is represented on the Legislative Council of the Governor General of India by two members, one of whom is elected by the non-official members of the Assam Legislative Council, while the other is a nominated official.

The Council has full powers to make laws for the peace and good government of the province, but is debarred, under section 43 (read with section 48) of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, from dealing, without the previous sanction of the Governor General, with any law for any of the following purposes :—

(1) affecting the public debt of India, or the customs duties, or any other tax or duty now in force and imposed by the authority of the Government of India for the general purposes of such Government ;

(2) regulating any of the current coin, or the issue of any bills, notes or other paper currency ;

(3) regulating the conveyance of letters by the post office or messages by the electric telegraph within the province ;

(4) altering in any way the Penal Code of India, as established by Act of the Governor General in Council, No. XLV of 1860 ;

(5) affecting the religious rites and usages of any class of His Majesty's subjects in India.

(6) affecting the discipline or maintenance of any part of His Majesty's Military or Naval forces ;

(7) regulating patents or copyrights ; or

(8) affecting the relations of the Government with foreign Princes or States.

PROTECTION.

Laws passed by the Assam Council will be styled "Acts," and will have no validity until the assent of the Governor General has been obtained, and such assent has been signified to, and published by, the Chief Commissioner. Such laws may be disallowed by the Crown, or may be repealed or amended by an Act or Regulation of the Governor General.

Acts of the Governor Generals. Council.

220. In addition to the power of making Laws conferred on the Assam Legislative Council, there are three other ways in which measures of legislation may be brought into force in the province. The first is the ordinary method, common to the whole of India, of passing Acts in the Council of the Governor General for making Laws and Regulations.

Regulations under 33 Vic., Ch. 3, sec. 1.

221. The second is the method of passing Regulations in accordance with the provisions of 33 Victoria, Chapter 3, section 1 (an Act to make better provisions for making Laws and Regulations for certain parts of India, and for certain other purposes relating thereto). This Act has, by resolution passed by the Secretary of State for India in Council, been extended to the districts of Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Cachar and Goalpara, the Garo Hills, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and the Naga Hills. Under its provisions the Local Government has power "to propose to the Governor General in Council drafts of any Regulations, together with the reasons for the same, for the peace and government of territories under its jurisdiction." Such drafts, when approved by the Governor General in Council, and after they have received the assent of the Governor General, are published in the *Gazette of India*, and thereupon have the force of law.

Extension under section 5 of the Scheduled Districts Act.

222. The third method is to make use of section 5 of Act XIV of 1874 (The Scheduled Districts Act), which declares that "the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, may, from time to time by notification in the *Gazette of India*, and also in the Local Gazette (if any), extend to any of the scheduled districts, or to any part of any such district, any enactment which is in force in any part of British India at the date of such extension." The districts of Assam are scheduled districts under the Act (Schedule I, Part X), and the Act was declared to be in force in them by a notification dated the 7th November 1877. Since that date, numerous Acts in force in other parts of India have, under the powers given by section 5, been brought into force in Assam.

Parliament

223. Lastly, Parliament retains power to legislate for Assam in common with other British possessions.

SECTION 2.—Course of Legislation.

224. *Acts.*—The following Acts were extended during the year to the places noted against each:—

The Bengal Vaccination Act, 1880 (V of 1880), to the Dhubri, Goalpara, Gauhati, Nowgong, Dibrugarh and Sylhet Municipalities:

Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act V of 1898) to the North Cachar subdivision of the Cachar district, the Garo Hills, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the Dibrugarh Frontier Tract in the Lakhimpur district, the Naga Hills, the Mikir Hills Tract in the Nowgong district and the Lushai Hills district:

The provisions of Part IX of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884 (III of 1884), to the Goalpara Municipality:

The Eastern Bengal and Assam Court of Wards (Amendment) Act, 1911 (I of 1911), to the districts of Sylhet, Cachar (excluding the North Cachar subdivision), Goalpara, Kamrup, Nowgong, Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur.

The provisions of the Glanders and Farcy Act, 1899 (XIII of 1899), as amended by the Glanders and Farcy Law Amendment Act, 1910 (XII of 1910), in respect of Glanders, Farcy and Surra were extended to the districts of Nowgong and Lakhimpur.

Sections 22, 23, 38 (2) and 40 of the Chin Hills Regulation, 1896 (Regulation V of 1896), were extended to the North Cachar Hills, the Garo Hills, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the Dibrugarh Frontier Tract in the Lakhimpur district, the Naga Hills, the Mikir Hills Tract in the Nowgong district and the Lushai Hills district.

SECTION 3.—Police.

MILITARY POLICE.

Strength.

225. The Lushai Hills and Naga Hills Battalions were slightly below their sanctioned strength, while the Lakhimpur Battalion, although short of one Havildar, had 21 sepoys above the actual sanctioned strength.

PRO-TECTION.

226. In both the Lakhimpur and Lushai Hills Battalions drill was satisfactory, while the General Officer Commanding the Assam Brigade in his annual inspection much appreciated the work and efficiency of the Naga Hills Battalion. The Abor expedition and the Mishmi and Miri Missions prevented the inter-battalion shooting competition from taking place, and interfered to some extent with the examination of signallers ; but this interruption of the usual course of training will be more than outweighed by the valuable experience gained. Efficiency in drill.

The behaviour of the men in the various battalions was satisfactory and only one serious breach of discipline occurred.

227. In 1910 the chief feature was the increse in the number of resignations. There was a marked decrease during the year under review. This is attributed largely to the military operations of the year, as the greatest keenness to go on active service was shown. In the Lakhimpur Battalion alone resignations fell from 36 to 6. Casualties.

228. Health in all the battalions improved materially during the year, and the daily average number of sick in hospital decreased. In the Naga Hills Battalion malaria gave much less trouble, but the Commandant reports that a good deal still remains to be done to improve the sanitation of the lines at Kohima. In spite of the heavy duties that fell to the Lakhimpur Battalion, there was a marked decrease in sickness. Health.

229. In January 1911 Colonel A. E. Woods, Deputy Commissioner of the Naga Hills, accompanied by Captain Molesworth as Intelligence Officer, took a column consisting of one native officer and 101 rifles, under the command of Major Bliss and Captain Hardcastle, to co-operate with a column from Burma in punishing the independent Makware tribe for a raid on Mangmo, a village in British Burma. The two forces met at Chunasani, and reached Makware on the 31st January. The village was ultimately burned. Military operations.

A force of one native officer and 80 rifles under the command of Captain Hamilton left Kohima on the 30th January to escort Mr. Needham, the Subdivisional Officer of Mokokchang, on a visit to some villages across the Dikhu. It proved necessary to burn the independent village of Chinlong. The column returned to Tamlu without loss.

The operations rendered necessary by the murder of Mr. Williamson and his party threw very heavy work on the Lakhimpur Battalion in particular and on the Military Police generally. Immediately on receipt of the news of the outrage a moveable column of 125 men, under the command of Captain Dunbar, moved with commendable promptitude to Pasighat, and from that time onwards this place and Balek, in its vicinity, were garrisoned by detachments of Military Police taken from the Lakhimpur and Naga Hills Battalions. Officers and men alike acquitted themselves well both in the initial advance to Pasighat and in the subsequent operations. Special mention must be made of Captain Hutchins whose death, while on the Abor Expedition, was deeply regretted by the whole force. It was intended that a composite battalion, seven hundred strong, of Military Police from the various battalions should form one unit in the expeditionary force which penetrated the Abor Hills under the command of Major-General Bower, but in the end only three officers and three hundred men of the Lakhimpur Battalion were so employed. The Mishmi Mission had to be provided with an escort consisting of 200 Military Police from the Naga Hills Battalion and 150 from the Dacca Battalion, while the Naga Hills Battalion supplied in all 150 men for service with the Miri Mission. The Police employed on the Abor Expedition and the two Missions all acquitted themselves well.

230. Non-commissioned officers and men were permitted to draw advances of pay when proceeding on leave, and the Inspector-General of Police was authorised to grant to non-commissioned officers and men leave for more than six months. Miscellaneous.

CIVIL POLICE.

231. The sanctioned strength of the force rose from 3,160 to 3,226, effect being given gradually to the sanctioned scheme for the reorganization of the subordinate police. These figures do not include the Criminal Intelligence Department of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. An additional force of 6 Head Constables and 41 constables was employed at the expense partly of Government and partly of the individuals at whose request their services were given. No additional police were employed on account of any area having been declared under the Police Act to be in a disturbed and dangerous condition. Strength and Cost.

The total cost of the Department (Military Police included) during the year 1911 was Rs. 19,26,819, as compared with Rs. 18 78,846 in 1910. The increase was principally due to the Dafla expedition, and the Mishmi and Miri Missions.

The Reserves.

232. Armed reserves were sanctioned for the districts of Darrang and Sibsagar, but, owing to the want of trained and suitable men, in Sibsagar the formation of the reserve proved impossible during the year. The employment of men of the armed reserve on work outside the ordinary sphere of their duty continued to be a matter of complaint.

The strength of the ordinary reserves, except in Darrang and Sibsagar, was again inadequate, but the scheme for the reorganisation of the subordinate police, to which effect is now being given, provides for a large increase both in these and in the armed reserves.

Rewards, Punishments and Conduct.

233. Rewards were given in Excise, Opium, Arms Act and Gambling Act cases, in connection with vital statistics, and for general good work. One officer in Kamrup was awarded a watch. In the district of Lakhimpur of a sum of Rs. 180 offered as a reward by private individuals Rs. 150 was earned by two Sub-Inspectors.

The behaviour of the men of the armed reserve was, on the whole, satisfactory. The discipline of the ordinary reserve, except in Sylhet and Sibsagar, was fair. Lax discipline in Sylhet is attributed to the fact that one-third of the force had to be recruited from among local Muhammadans not of the best type. The number of Departmental punishments rose from 707 to 937, and the percentage of men punished on the actual strength from 23·7 to 30·09. Judicial punishments rose from 29 to 40. The increase is due to the enforcement of a higher standard of discipline. Of 56 criminal charges which were brought against the police only 20 ended in conviction. The few cases of bribery that were brought were all either dismissed, or ended in the discharge or acquittal of the accused.

Recruitment.

234. The difficulty of obtaining suitable men locally still continued and it was found necessary to recruit from the United Provinces. Mr. J. M. Coates, Superintendent of Police, who was placed on special duty in this connection, mentioned among the causes that tended to the scarcity of suitable local recruits, competition in the labour market, the high cost of living, insufficiency of leave, the want of elasticity in the leave rules and the stiffening of discipline. As an intermediate measure of relief the Government of India sanctioned a recruiting allowance of Rs. 6-8-0.

Casualties.

235. The number of resignations was 109, the same as in the preceding year There was an increase in the number of dismissals, particularly in Sylhet.

Railway Police.

236. The Assam-Bengal Railway Police force was strengthened by the addition of 2 Head Constables and 33 constables, who were sanctioned for employment on the Chittagong Jetties, of 26 constables for patrolling passenger trains running at night and of 2 constables for platform duty at Comilla station.

The force employed on the Dibru-Sadiya Railway remained unchanged. On the Assam-Bengal Railway there were only 3 running-train thefts against 16 in 1910. Of these one ended in conviction while two were undetected. This improvement is attributed to the removal of carriage foot-boards and to the establishment of train patrols.

Constables' Training School, Silchar.

237. Three hundred and seventy-four recruits passed out of the School as compared with 317 in 1910. Of these 174 could read and write on arrival. These figures include recruits received for training from the whole of the Eastern Range, and certain districts of the Western Range. Drill and discipline were good, but a number of the recruits had to be absent from time to time on escort and miscellaneous duties.

Rural Police.

238. There are chaukidars in the districts of Sylhet, Cachar and Goalpara only.

The percentage of chaukidars rewarded rose in Cachar, but the balance in the Chaukidari reward fund continued to be high, especially in Goalpara (Rs. 10,324).

Crime Statistics.

239. The total number of cases reported to the Police direct, and instituted by complaint before Magistrates and referred to the Police for enquiry was 16,180, of which 60·6 per cent. were investigated by the Police against 66·2 per cent. in 1910. Of the cases investigated 56·6 per cent. were sent up for trial, against 57·9 per cent. in 1910. 9,333 cases were decided during the year, and of these 52·4 per cent. ended in conviction, against 56 per cent. in 1910. There was an increase of 1,518 in the number of cases of serious crime, and of these 1,511 were classed as thefts and burglaries.

False Cases.

240. In 77 out of the 411 cases declared by Magistrates to be maliciously false he complainants were prosecuted and 30 of these cases ended in conviction.

Criminal Investigation Department.

241. Good work was done by the Department in its systematic prosecution of up-country gangs such as Brajabashis, Maghya Domes and Mozaffarpur Sonars. A number of persons belonging to such gangs were bound down under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, or convicted on substantive charges, at the initiative of the Department and with the help of the local police.

PRO-TECTION.

Information was collected about a gang of hereditary river pirates living on the border of Sylhet and Mymensingh, who, for generations, have infested the Meghna from Sylhet to Bhairab Bazar.

Political Crime.

242. There was no political crime, but an officer of the Department was engaged for some time in a confidential enquiry in the Cachar district. Many references were made to Superintendents of Police in Assam in connection with Bengal crime and criminals.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice.

[For detailed figures, see statements appended to the Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1911 ; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Criminal Courts.

243. Two Sessions Judges and a Subordinate Judge vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge were employed throughout the year.

The Magisterial staff consisted of 64 Stipendiary and 26 Honorary Magistrates, including 8 special Magistrates, of whom four were employed in Lakhimpur, three in Darrang and one in Nowgong.

Offences reported.

244. Thirty-five thousand nine hundred and eighty-three criminal offences were reported during the year, of which 13,125 were dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, and 934 were struck off as false. The Courts dealt with 21,259 cases in all, *viz.*, 15,324 under the Penal Code and 5,935 under Special Laws, an increase since 1910 of 1,498 and 319, respectively.

Rejected complaints and false cases.

245. The total number of cases in which the complaint was rejected, or the case struck off as false, was 14,059 or 39 per cent. of the number reported.

Cases found to be true.

246. Of 21,259 cases accepted as true by the Courts, 14,960 were brought to trial.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

Disposals.

247. One hundred and sixty-nine cases were decided by District Magistrates, 13,659 by other Stipendiary Magistrates, and 885 by Honorary Magistrates and Benches.

Witnesses.

248. The number of witnesses examined during the year was 50,784. Of the total number of witnesses who attended, 54,411 were discharged on the first day of the trial, while 443 were detained for more than three days.

Whipping.

249. The percentage of cases in which a sentence of whipping was passed to the number in which it might have been was 8·67. The proportion was highest in Darrang (15·8) and lowest in Nowgong (4·5).

Security for keeping the peace and for good behaviour.

250. Proceedings were taken under Chapter VIII of the Code of Criminal Procedure against 1,830 persons. The number of persons dealt with under this Chapter was largest in Sylhet (1,579), where there was a marked increase (355) in the number of proceedings of this nature.

Frivolous or vexatious accusations.

251. Under section 250 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 64 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, the accusations brought having been found to be frivolous or vexatious.

COURTS OF SESSION.

Commitments, etc.

252. There were 21 cases pending for trial before the Courts of Session at the beginning of the year. Of 194 cases committed during the year, 183 were disposed of, and 29 were pending trial at its close. The commitments exceeded those of 1910 by 15.

Results of trials.

253. Of 478 persons, 386 were tried and 87 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the persons tried, 264 were convicted and sentenced in the Sessions Court, the cases of 4 were referred for the orders of the High Court, and 118 were acquitted.

Jury trials.

254. Eighty-five persons were tried by jury, and in the case of 38 of these the Judge agreed with the verdict of the jury. In the case of 47 persons tried by this procedure the Judge disagreed with the jury's verdict. In the case of 3 persons a reference was made to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Of these persons 2 were acquitted and one was convicted. In Sylhet and Cachar there was no trial by jury.

Trial by Assessors.

255. Two hundred and forty-five persons were tried with the aid of Assessors. The Judge concurred with the finding of both Assessors in 147 instances and with that of one Assessor in 52 cases and disagreed with both Assessors in 46 cases.

Punishment.

256. No death sentence was passed during the year. Fourteen persons were sentenced in the Sessions Court to transportation for life, 12 persons to transportation for a term of years and 220 persons to rigorous imprisonment.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

Appeals to High Court.

257. Eighty-three cases were decided on appeal by the High Court during the year.

Appeals to the Courts of Session.

258. There were 34 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the beginning of the year. During the year 672 appeals were preferred and 674 were disposed of, leaving 32 pending at its close. The institutions exceeded those of 1910 by 45.

There were 1,231 persons concerned in the appeals of the year, and orders were passed in the case of 1,169 persons. The appeals resulted in the confirmation of the original sentence in 754 instances or 64·5 per cent., in modification in 233 instances or 19·9 per cent., and in reversal in 171 instances or 14·5 per cent. A new trial was ordered in the cases of 9 persons, and in the cases of 2 persons the proceedings were quashed.

Appeals to Magistrates' courts.

259. In the courts of District Magistrates 188 appeals were disposed of during the year.

REFERENCE AND REVISION.

Reference under section 307, Criminal Procedure Code.

260. Two cases in which the Sessions Judge dissented from the verdict of a jury were referred to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure during the year. In one case the view of the Judge was accepted and in the other that of the jury.

Applications for revision made to Courts of Session.

261. During the year 290 applications for revision, of which 285 were disposed of, were preferred to Sessions Judges. The orders of the lower courts were confirmed in the cases of 589 persons, a new trial or further enquiry was ordered in cases of 155 persons, and the cases of 51 persons were referred to the High Court.

Applications for revision made to District Magistrates.

262. District Magistrates decided 289 applications in revision during the year.

Receipts and charges.

263. The charges of the Criminal Courts in Assam amounted to Rs. 2,82,369 and the receipts to Rs. 1,84,711.

SECTION 5.—Jails.

[*See* Report on the Jail Administration in the Province of Assam for the year 1911; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

General.

264. The number of jails and sub-jails remained the same as in the previous year. Eight thousand five hundred and ninety-four prisoners were admitted during the year against 8,406 in the previous year, but the number at the end of the year was 344 less than in that year, owing to more numerous discharges. Of the total number of convicts imprisoned, 49·55 per cent. were Hindus and Sikhs, 40·91 per cent. Muhammadans, ·27 per cent. Christians, and ·12 per cent. Buddhists and Jains.

Juvenile, female and literate offenders.

265. Fourteen (12 boys and 2 girls) juvenile offenders and 142 females were imprisoned during the year. The percentage of literate convicts was 5·7.

Under trial prisoners.

266. The daily average of under-trial prisoners was 192.

Civil prisoners.

267. Eighty-five civil prisoners were received during the year as compared with 66 in 1910.

Discipline.

268. There were 4 escapes, one from inside and three from outside the jails.

The total number of offences committed by convicts during the year was 1,901, or 78 less than in the preceding year. Major offences increased by 71, while minor offences decreased by 149.

269. The daily average number of sick was 86·19 as against 58·21 in 1910, and the total number of deaths was 108 as against 56 in 1910. The death-rate increased in almost all the district jails except those at Shillong, Kohima, Aijal and Dhubri. The heavy death-rate is attributable to the unhealthiness of the year 1911 and to a certain extent to overcrowding. Health.

270. An average of 694·98 prisoners or 39·28 per cent. were employed on manufactures, and 119·77 or 6·76 per cent. on remunerative extramural labour. The cash earnings of the year amounted to Rs. 39,583, as compared with Rs. 61,344 in 1910. Employment.

271. The total expenditure on the maintenance of the prisoners rose to Rs. 1,48,753 from Rs 1,36,456, and net cost was Rs. 1,09,170 against Rs. 75,112 in the preceding year, being an increase of about Rs. 16 per head of average strength. Finance.

SECTION 6.—Civil Justice.

272. During the year the number of original suits instituted was 34,679, an increase of 1,472 over the figures of the preceding year. Of these, 24,136 were suits for money or moveables, 6,908 rent suits, and 3,639 title and other suits. In all 27,284 suits were valued at sums not exceeding Rs. 100. Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court.

273. District Judges disposed of 18 original suits, Subordinate Judges of 774 and Munsifs of 34,319. The average number of cases disposed of by each Munsif was 1,143·96. In Sylhet, where alone there are Munsifs proper solely occupied with civil work, the average of disposals per Munsif was 2,138. Disposal of suits.

274. There were 18,978 applications for proceedings in execution of decrees, and the number pending at the close of the year was 3,815. Full satisfaction was obtained in 2,603 and partial satisfaction in 3,359 cases, the total amount realised being Rs. 4,58,869. In 12,214 cases the proceedings were returned as unsuccessful. Execution of decrees.

275. As regards cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings, 3,151 were instituted during the year and 3,048 disposed of. Miscellaneous cases.

The number of non-judicial miscellaneous cases instituted during the year was 627, the number disposed of being 604.

276. The total receipts from the Civil Courts in Assam amounted to Rs. 5,76,040, an increase of Rs. 18,184 over the receipts of 1910. The expenditure was Rs. 2,74,821 as compared with Rs. 2,67,038. Financial results.

277. The following abstracts relate to the administration of Civil Justice in the hill districts and the Eastern Duars :— Civil Justice in the hill districts.

Naga Hills.—Including 28 pending suits, there were 348 suits for disposal during the year 1911, of which 339 were decided. The total value of the suits was Rs. 8,479, as against Rs. 7,617 in 1910. Of 9 applications for the execution of decrees, this figure including 3 applications pending at the end of 1910, 7 were disposed of.

Khasi and Jaintia Hills.—One hundred and ninety-six suits were instituted during the year, against 194 in 1910. Of these, 185 cases were filed before British Courts and the rest before the Dolois in the Jaintia Hills. One case was received by transfer from other courts, and there were 10 cases pending from the preceding year. Of a total number of 207 cases which came up before the tribunals 198 cases were disposed of. The total value of the civil suits in various Courts of the district for the year 1911 amounted to Rs. 33,841 against Rs. 52,791 in the preceding year. Six appeals were filed before the Deputy Commissioner including one pending from the previous year. All of these were decided. Three appeals were preferred before and disposed of by the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Districts. There were 130 applications for the execution of decrees, of which 62 were disposed of. The total amount realised was Rs. 15,043, as against Rs. 12,434 in 1910.

Garo Hills.—The total number of suits for disposal was 250, this figure including 21 pending from the preceding year, 97 received by transfer from other courts, and 5 reviewed under sections 99, 103, 108 or 371 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Of the total, 135 suits were decided. The total value of the suits was Rs. 13,070. The number of applications for execution of decrees was 35 which included 4 pending from the preceding year. Of these 32 were disposed of. The amount realised was Rs. 208, as against Rs. 631 in 1910.

Eastern Duars.—The number of civil suits instituted during the year was 242 against 245 in the preceding year. The number of suits for disposal was 287. Of these 248 were decided. The total value of suits instituted was Rs. 29,630, against

Rs. 33,439 in the preceding year. There were 188 applications for execution of decrees, this figure including 23 pending from the preceding year. Of these decrees 22 were wholly or partly satisfied, 57 were struck off for default, and 15 remained pending at the end of the year.

North Cachar.—The total number of suits for disposal was 61, this number including one suit pending at the close of 1910. Of these suits, 57 were decided. The total value of suits instituted was Rs. 7,676 as against Rs. 5,286 in 1910. The number of applications for execution of decrees was 28, this figure including 7 applications which were pending at the end of 1910. Seven applications were disposed of. The amount realised was Rs. 888 against Rs. 3,140 in 1910.

SECTION 7.—Registration.

[*See* Statistical returns of the Registration Department in Assam for the year 1911; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Registration offices.

278. There were altogether 37 offices at work as in the two previous years.

Document registered.

279. The total number of documents registered in the province rose from 67,196 to 71,192, the increase being marked under the heads "sales" and "mortgages."

Receipts and expenditure.

280. Receipts rose from Rs. 86,613 to Rs. 89,199, while the expenditure remained practically stationary, being Rs. 56,738 as compared with Rs. 55,735 in the previous year.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

281. The registrations effected under this Act have not made any considerable progress and show only a small increase over the figures of the last year. The expansion was checked by poor harvests in Sylhet, and the temporary closure of an office in Cachar for some months, while in the Assam Valley, except in Goalpara, the progress was retarded owing to the apathy of the Muhammadan community in this matter.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

282. During the year 49 companies limited by shares and registered under Act VI of 1882 were at work, with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 9,85,181, as compared with 43 companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 9,58,470 at the close of the previous year. There was only one company limited by guarantee at work at the close of the year. Ten new companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 17,793 were registered during the year. Insurance companies with comparatively small paid-up capital continued to constitute a large proportion of the new companies registered.

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration.

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipalities in Assam during the year 1911-12; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

283. During the year Part IX of Bengal Act III of 1884 was extended to the Goalpara Municipality, and Bengal Act V of 1880 was introduced in the Municipalities of Sylhet, Dhubri, Goalpara, Gauhati, Nowgong and Dibrugarh. The boundaries of the Golaghat Union were revised and rules framed by the Sylhet Municipality under the Hackney Carriage Act, XIV of 1879, were confirmed. Though the number of meetings held by municipal bodies fell from 171 to 148 and 11 failed to hold at least one meeting in each month, the average percentage of attendance rose from 60·34 to 63·99.

Taxation.

284. General or partial revisions of assessment were carried out in 10 municipalities, which, in the case of Sibsagar and Nazira, yielded substantial increases. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was Re. 1-8-5, against Re. 1-7-8 in 1910-11. There is still a reluctance on the part of certain towns to introduce a tax on holdings, and in some others the incidence of taxation is yet unduly low.

Income.

285. The aggregate income of municipal institutions, excluding opening balances, was Rs. 5,36,892, an increase of Rs. 1,80,010 on the figures of the preceding year, which was entirely accounted for by large grants, in aid of water-supply schemes, made by Government to the Shillong and Jorhat Municipalities, local income decreasing by some Rs. 600. Grants from Government amounted to Rs. 2,65,063 against Rs. 90,194 in the previous year.

Expenditure.

286. The total expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 4,12,757 as compared with Rs. 3,40,420 in 1910-11.

Water-supply.

287. Capital charges on account of water-supply rose from Rs. 19,970 to Rs. 81,881, while those for maintenance fell from Rs. 27,018 to Rs. 21,762. Gauhati and Shillong are the only municipalities with properly constituted water-works. The larger capital outlay is due to expenditure on the Shillong water-works, which were completed during the year under review, Government contributing Rs. 81,290 towards the project.

Conservancy and Drainage.

288. The expenditure on establishment, repairs, etc., of drainage systems rose from Rs. 6,458 to Rs. 8,838, but the capital outlay on drainage fell from Rs. 3,402 to Rs. 453. The drainage systems of the towns of Sylhet, Tezpur and Dibrugarh are being investigated by committees which have been appointed in connection with the water-supply arrangements at those places.

Financial position.

289. The aggregate closing balances amounted to Rs. 1,90,233, which was Rs. 1,24,166 in excess of those of the preceding year. At the close of the year three municipalities had outstanding loans to meet, but the liabilities were not heavy and on the whole the financial position of the municipalities was sound.

Audit.

290. There was a tendency to improvement in the accounts of all municipalities. The Examiner of Local Accounts, however, drew attention in some cases to defects in collection work and animadverted on the delay in introducing the new accounts rules.

General.

291. The year was an uneventful one so far as municipal administration is concerned. It is, however, hoped that the labours of the committees, which the Chief Commissioner has appointed in several towns, will result in an impetus being given to the improvement of water-supply and drainage.

SECTION 9.—Local Boards.

(*See* Resolution on the working of Local Boards in Assam during 1911-12; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.)

General.

292. No alteration took place as regards either the number or constitution of the Boards, but the number of successful meetings and the average percentage of attendance thereat declined slightly during the year under report.

Finance.

293. The aggregate opening balance of the Boards was Rs. 4,10,435; their income during the year amounted to Rs. 16,99,522 and their expenditure to Rs. 17,67,751. Ordinary income increased by Rs. 1,26,190 owing chiefly to larger contributions from provincial sources, while the ordinary expenditure of the year rose to Rs. 16,94,088. Apart from subventions from provincial revenue, which represented 38·23 per cent. of the Boards' income, the expansion of receipts from other sources was inconsiderable. There was a satisfactory decrease in the value of uncashed cheques at the close of the year.

The work of the year. (a) Education.

294. The expenditure on education rose from Rs. 4,96,742 to Rs. 5,18,651, the increase being shared by the majority of the Boards—a fact which indicates that the Boards realise their responsibility in this matter.

(b) Medical.

295. The number of dispensaries increased from 116 to 121. Special arrangements were made by certain Boards for dealing with outbreaks of epidemic disease, and all those in the Surma Valley, except Hailakandi, employed epidemic doctors. The Gauhati, Silchar, Hailakandi and Sylhet Local Boards continued the policy of deputing Sub-Assistant Surgeons to attend markets for the distribution of medical relief and the results achieved were very encouraging.

(c) Sanitary improvements, water-supply and drainage.

296. The expenditure under these heads fell from Rs. 1,51,508 to Rs. 1,39,865. The inception of measures for the systematic improvement of the water-supply and sanitation of rural areas however is engaging the attention of the Chief Commissioner, who proposes shortly to summon a representative conference in order to advise him on this matter.

(d) Public Works.

297. A sum of Rs. 9,04,592 was allotted for Public works, of which Rs. 8,34,584 was already expended, the corresponding figures for the previous year being Rs. 10,17,373 and Rs. 8,51,821, respectively. The average lapse was reduced from 16·3 to 7·4 per cent., but the failure to spend allotments was marked in the case of the South Sylhet, Dhubri and Hailakandi Boards.

PRO-TECTION.

A satisfactory feature of the year's working is the attention devoted by many of the Boards to the replacement of temporary bridges by permanent and semi-permanent structures.

(c) Veterinary.

298. Veterinary charges fell from Rs. 26,172 to Rs. 25,390. Though expenditure under this head was greater in the case of Assam Valley, the increase was more than counterbalanced by the heavy decrease which took place in the Surma Valley.

SECTION 10.—Military (Volunteering).

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERS).

299. The undermentioned Volunteer Corps were in existence during 1911-12:—

1. Surma Valley Light Horse.
2. Assam Valley Light Horse.

The total number of volunteers was on 1st April 1912—

Officers	73
Rank and file	978

This number was made up as follows:—

Corps.	Officers.	Rank and file.	Reservists.	
			Officers.	Rank and file.
1	2	3	4	5
Surma Valley Light Horse	35	325	...	11
Assam Valley Light Horse	32	521	6	121
Total ...	67	846	6	132

SECTION 11.—Marine.

Nil.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION I.—Agriculture and Horticulture.

(*See* Report of the Agricultural Department, Assam, for the year ending 30th June 1912.)

General.

300. Consequent upon the formation of Assam as a separate province, the Department of Agriculture ceased to have a separate Director and has been placed under the Director of Land Records, with a Deputy Director of Agriculture as his principal assistant.

Agricultural stations.

301. About 20 acres of additional land was acquired for the Jorhat farm for extension of experiments. In the Upper Shillong farm, about 30 acres of pine forest were cleared and brought under cultivation.

Fruit stations.

302. Fruit culture in the fruit garden at Upper Shillong and the Tropical Plantation at Wahjain not having proved successful, both these stations were abandoned during the year and were leased to private persons. A new experimental fruit garden has been started nearer Shillong station and Mr. C. H. Holder of Shillong, who has already successfully grown several varieties of fruit in his own garden, has been placed in charge of it.

Agricultural education.

303. A Government scholar of this province, who was sent to the Poona Agricultural College, completed his course in April 1912 and obtained the diploma of Agriculture of that college and two Agricultural graduates of the province are undergoing a post-graduate training. At the Upper Shillong farm, two Khasi apprentices are being trained for the post of the fieldmen demonstrator and two Lushai youths are being instructed in potato growing. A Gurkha *mali* received a training there in methods of fruit culture and has been sent to Tissama in the Naga Hills where a fruit garden has been started.

Experiment and research.

304. The work in connection with high-land soil investigations was continued at Jorhat and extended by the Agricultural Chemist and the Deputy Director of Agriculture, and some very interesting results have been obtained, showing that without the addition of lime rabi crops will not grow at all on this soil, even when manured with cowdung and phosphate in the form of bonemeal. Experiments with sugarcane were continued at Jorhat and the chief feature of the year's work was the remarkably good results obtained from three of the Barbadoes varieties, *viz.*, B376, B147 and B208.

Dissemination.

305. Demonstrations and the manuring of the winter rice with bonemeal were carried out in 9 villages in the Khasi Hills. The results were highly satisfactory and the practice of using bonemeal as a manure for paddy is rapidly spreading in these Hills. The spraying of potatoes with Bordeaux mixture as a preventive of disease was demonstrated in certain villages in the Khasi Hills with very satisfactory results.

Aid to the public.

306. The Entomological Collector, Bengal, toured in the province in connection with the question of combating insect pests on crops. The Mycological Collector of Bengal also visited the province in connection with outbreaks of fungus pests on various crops, chiefly potato, sugarcane, tomato and betel-nut. The central seed depôt at Dacca continued to supply seed, manures and implements to officers and others, associates and correspondents of the Agricultural Department in Assam.

Improvement of live-stock.

307. The breeding of Patna bulls for distribution with the object of improving the local breed of cattle was continued at Upper Shillong. Five young bulls were sold to Khasi cultivators. The poultry operations in the Lushai Hills continued to progress. The sheep-breeding operations in the Khasi Hills were also successful and the wool of the cross-bred sheep was valued at Liverpool at a very much higher rate than that of the Khasi sheep and appreciably higher than that of the Dumba.

Exhibition.

308. The usual show of flowers, fruit, field and garden produce, cattle, etc., was held at Shillong on May 24th, 1912.

Section 2.—Co-operative Societies.

[*See* Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1912; Statistics of British India, Part II.]

General.

309. The most important event of the year was the passing into law by the Imperial Legislative Council of the new Co-operative Societies Act (II of 1912).

Number of Societies.

310. The number of Urban Societies increased from 13 to 16 during the year. The increase is spontaneous and is no doubt due to the success of several of these societies, notably the Sylhet, Silchar and Gauhati Town Banks.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Central Bank.

311. The only Central Bank in the Province is the Pioneer Bank at Shillong. Its paid-up share capital amounts to Rs. 12,000 and its capital from the sale of 5-year 7½ per cent. debentures to Rs. 63,150. It issued Rs. 25,100 in loans during the year as against Rs. 31,600 in the preceding year. The interest charged was in all cases 12½ per cent.

Urban Societies.

312. The total capital of Urban Banks, inclusive of reserve funds, increased during the year from Rs. 1,49,877 to Rs. 1,92,563. The amount deposited by members rose from Rs. 46,139 to Rs. 50,614 and by non-members from Rs. 42,552 to Rs. 67,759. During the year Urban Banks issued 600 loans, totalling Rs. 90,335, to their members. The average amount per loan was Rs. 150-8 and the rate of interest charged varied from 9 to 18¾ per cent. These societies draw their members mainly from Government officers and the professional classes of district and subdivisional head-quarters stations.

Rural Societies.

313. Rural societies have increased in number from 100 to 125 and their capital from Rs. 1,58,234 to Rs. 2,05,594. Members' deposits increased during the year from Rs. 75,073 to Rs. 88,378. Two thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine loans were issued for sums aggregating Rs. 1,17,729, the average per loan being just under Rs. 40. More Rural Societies might have been organised, but for the difficulty of exercising sufficient supervision, it being considered advisable to proceed slowly with organisation until some progress has been made in the formation of Unions.

Profits.

314. The profit of the Central Bank on the year's working was Rs. 4,054-1-2. All Urban Societies worked at a profit and the total profit earned was Rs. 10,548-0-2. The profits of Rural Societies amounted to Rs. 11,038-9-9, which was carried to Reserve Funds.

Resources.

315. No fresh Government loan was issued to Urban Societies during the year. Outstanding loans were reduced from Rs. 6,150 to Rs. 5,250.

SECTION 3.—Weather and Crops.

[*See* Report on Season and Crops of Assam for the year ending the 31st March 1912; Agricultural Statistics of British India, Volume I, Appendix A, Area and yield of certain principal crops in India.]

General character of the weather.

316. The spring rainfall was generally plentiful, though March was somewhat dry: it was much in excess of the normal in the Surma Valley and the hills on its north, in Jorhat and Sibsagar subdivisions of the district of Sibsagar; it was markedly in defect in Nowgong only. From June to September copious rain fell all over the Province and was in excess of the normal. Heavy rain again fell in October and the autumn rainfall was below the normal only in Nowgong and Naga Hills: during December and January there was practically no rain, but it was more than average in February and the winter rainfall in consequence reached the normal or exceeded it in most districts. There were floods in June, July and August, which affected in varying degrees the low land *aus* (early rice), rape and mustard, sugarcane, jute and cotton crops.

Area under cultivation.

317. The year was on the whole favourable for extension of cultivation and the net cropped area reported increased by no less than 174,154 acres; of these about 50,000 acres are accounted for by the reduction in the area of current fallow, which had exceeded the normal in the previous year, mainly owing to the excessive floods in Sylhet and Goalpara: the rest is attributed to the reclamation of new land. The increase was shared by the Garo Hills and all the plains districts except Goalpara and Kamrup and was most marked in Sylhet, Nowgong, Lakhimpur, and the Garo Hills. In Goalpara and Kamrup the late subsidence of floods interfered with the cultivation of rape and sugarcane and caused small decreases in cropped area.

318. The average outturn of *aus* rice is estimated at 92 per cent. of the normal and of winter and boro rice at 103 and 100 per cent., respectively. On this basis the outturn was approximately 1,981,080 tons against 1,90,3000 tons in the previous year. Owing to unusual lateness of floods, drought and some damage caused by insects, the yield of rape seeds was 18 per cent. below the normal. The outturn of linseed was also estimated at 19 per cent. below the normal. Sugarcane yielded 100 per cent. of the normal and on this basis the total outturn was estimated approximately at 31,000 tons. Notwithstanding the increase in area and percentage of outturn, the total outturn shows a decrease as compared with the previous year, which is due to the revision of the normal yield per acre. The average outturn of jute was estimated at 89 per cent. of the normal, the deficiency being ascribed to damage by floods between June and August.

Prices.

319. Wholesale prices of rice were generally higher in May and August than in the previous year, but were lower just before and after the harvest except at Dibrugarh. The year opened with the average retail price of rice at Rs. 3·497 per maund, which

rose steadily, as usual, up to August, when it was Rs. 3·975 per maund. A very slight fall occurred in September, but owing to the heavy rain and floods of October the price went up again in that month. With the end of the rains and consequent cessation of floods and the approach of the winter harvest a steady fall set in, which continued up to the first half of March 1912 when the price was Rs. 3·216. At the close of the year the price per maund was Rs. 3·299 or over 7 per cent. lower than in the preceding year.

SECTION 4.—Forests.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Assam for 1911-12; Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*), Finance and Revenue.]

Area of reserved forests.

320. The total area of reserved forests (4,345 square miles) was reduced by about 24 square miles during the year owing to disforestations in the Cachar and Garo Hills districts, that of unclassed forests being increased from 18,386 to 18,403 square miles. There was a large addition (72 square miles) to unclassed State forests in the Garo Hills due to disforestation and other causes, but the area of such forests decreased in all other districts mainly owing to extension of cultivation.

Six areas, comprising in all 52 square miles, were brought under settlement, in addition to 3 blocks (44 square miles) previously taken up, and a great deal of exploration work was also carried out during the year.

Working plans.

321. No new working plans were prepared or sanctioned. The existing plans were fairly worked up to, save where want of labour or demand prevented further progress. Fellings of *sâl* trees and climber cuttings in Goalpara did not progress well. In Kamrup, a large number of *sâl* stems included in the working plans still remain untouched owing to difficulties of extraction and to the greater accessibility of the unclassed State forests.

Communications and buildings.

322. A sum of Rs. 1,10,559, as against Rs. 76,965 in the preceding year, was expended on communications and buildings. The Goalpara Forest Tramway was extended by a mile and a half during the year. The tramway now extends to over 20 miles, including one mile of portable line. The total expenditure on the line to the close of the year amounted to Rs. 1,03,069. The tramway yielded a return of 6 per cent. on the outlay. Eighty-two and half miles of cart roads or tracks convertible into cart roads were newly opened at a cost of Rs. 18,896, and Rs. 33,601 were expended on new buildings, consisting mainly of quarters for subordinates and guard huts.

Forest offences and protection.

323. The total number of forest offences reported during the year was 698, as compared with 669 in the preceding year, the increase occurring in Sylhet and Lakhimpur Divisions. In the latter an endeavour was made to arrest illicit trade in the sale and export of country dug-outs. The number of cases brought into court was 254, of which 175 ended in conviction. In one case Rs. 4,500 were recovered from certain mahaldars in Cachar as a penalty for capturing three elephants outside the limits of their mahals. The other cases were of a petty nature.

Fire-protection has been extended to about one-fourth of the area of the reserved forests. Four fairly large fires broke out in the Kamrup Forest Division. 0·7 per cent. of the specially protected areas and 11·73 per cent. of those partially protected were burned. Otherwise the year was on the whole favourable.

Rubber.

324. In the Charduar rubber plantation experiments in regard to the formation of ærial roots were only fairly successful in the older compartments, owing to the trees having lost vigour by severe tapping. This method is being tried also in the Kulsi plantation. In the former plantation, owing to labour difficulties, it was found impossible to complete the compartments sanctioned.

In both the plantations altogether 336·6 acres were worked and 5,287 trees were tapped yielding 11,104 lbs. against 9,087 lbs. in the preceding year. In the Kulsi plantation 88 acres yielded 4,389 lbs. of rubber. The produce was sold locally at Rs. 2-6-1 per pound against Rs. 3-0-1 in the preceding year. In addition to the above, 95,940 lbs. were produced outside the areas worked departmentally and on this royalty amounting to Rs. 20,990 was levied.

Rubber plants have been distributed to a number of villages in the Lushai Hills.

Sylviculture.

325. A small plantation of bamboo has been begun at Charduar in order to supply a good class of bamboo for departmental use, and a *simul* nursery was opened in Lakhimpur with a view to the increase of the supply of timber for the manufacture of tea-boxes.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

General.

326. Specimens of 5 timbers were sent to Calcutta from Goalpara, but only one (*Alcodaphne sp.*) was reported saleable at rates which would cover expenses. *Sinul* and other woods are being examined in order to ascertain whether they are suitable for use as veneers for tea-boxes.

Forest villages.

327. A new village, Dilma in the Garo Hills, was established during the year. The forest villages in Kamrup have decreased in area.

Financial results.

328. Information under this head is included in Chapter V "Revenue and Finance."

329. The gross revenue was Rs. 11,17,569 against Rs. 13,01,640 in the preceding year and the expenditure rose to Rs. 8,32,158 from Rs. 8,02,514. The decrease in receipts was mainly due to the fact that advances to the total of Rs. 1,73,000 were received in Goalpara in the previous year for timber supplied during the year under review. Except Darrang all divisions were worked at a profit.

SECTION 5.—Manufactures and Mines.

Tea.

330. The total area of land under tea rose from 351,592 acres to 354,276 acres, but the number of permanent labourers employed on the gardens decreased from 453,140 to 392,884. In addition to the permanent labour force, 35,223 temporary labourers were employed. The decrease in the former is attributed to the discharge of time-expired coolies and to difficulty in recruiting new coolies. Except in the districts of Cachar, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, the weather was very favourable for the growth of tea. In Cachar the season came to an end early owing to unfavourable weather during the last quarter. In Sibsagar there was too much rain and in Lakhimpur blights of various kinds flourished owing to the wet weather.

The year's crop amounted to 179,053,017 pounds of manufactured tea. The total production of the year exceeded that of the preceding year by 2·2 per cent., a result which was due to the favourable weather conditions. The state of the industry may be described as prosperous; the area under tea increased, weather and rainfall were on the whole favourable, the demand for tea abroad was greater, and higher prices ruled during the year 1911 than in the previous year. The only drawbacks were the light shortage in labour, the increased cost of recruiting, and the physical inferiority of the imported coolies.

331. Seven prospecting licenses were granted during the year, three for oil in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, one for oil in Cachar, two for coal in the Garo Hills, and one for corundum in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Six coal mines in the Lakhimpur district produced 294,243 tons of coal during the year. The royalty on coal amounted to Rs. 44,137.

The Digboi oil wells in Lakhimpur produced 3,565,163 gallons of mineral oil, the royalty on which amounted to Rs. 19,879. The output of limestone amounted to 102,910 tons, of which practically the whole amount was quarried in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

SECTION 6.—Factories.

REPORT.

332. There was no change in the number of factories (18) working during the year. They are classified as follows :—

Printing Press	2
Railway Workshops	4
Petroleum refinery	1
Pottery works	1
Saw-mills	10
	18

The average daily number of operatives employed was 2,971, including 180 children, against 2,875, including 161 children, in the preceding year.

Of the total number of factories, 8 were inspected once, 4 twice, 3 thrice and 2 more than 3 times; only one factory remained uninspected. The Chief Inspector of Factories and his assistants inspected 3 factories in the Surma Valley Districts and 6 in the Assam Valley Districts. The sanitary arrangements of all factories are stated

to be generally satisfactory and the health of the operatives was on the whole good. Statistics of mortality are not generally maintained, but a death rate of 26·3 per thousand on the average daily number was reported from the Lakhimpur district, where the number of factory employés is the highest.

Women and children were employed on light labour. The percentage of children employed on the total number of operatives increased from 5·6 to 6·0. They all held certificates under section 5 of the Act.

The number of accidents in all factories was 5. Of these, 3 were fatal and 2 minor. All the fatal accidents occurred in the Lakhimpur district.

There were no prosecutions under the Act.

SECTION 7.—Maritime Trade.

Nil.

SECTION 8.—Rail and River-borne Trade.

[*See* Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River of Assam during the year 1911-12.]

Registration.

333. For the purpose of recording the trade carried by rail and river, Assam is divided into three blocks. A record of the trade of these three blocks by rail with one another and with other provinces is prepared in the Railway Audit offices. A similar procedure is followed in the case of steamer-borne trade. All traffic by country boat between Assam and Calcutta is recorded by special agencies maintained by the Calcutta Port Commissioners. The registering stations at Dhubri and Bhairab Bazar record all trade which enters or leaves the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys, respectively, by country boat.

Total Rail and River-borne Trade.

334. The total trade with other provinces amounted to 19,861,705½ maunds, the value of which was Rs. 1,858 lakhs; of this amount Rs. 581 lakhs represent imports and Rs. 1,277 lakhs exports.

Sixty-four per cent. of the exports and about 73 per cent. of the imports of Assam go to and come from Calcutta.

Imports.

335. Sixty-seven lakhs of maunds of goods, totalling in value 581 lakhs of rupees, were imported into the province during the year 1911-12.

The total value of the imports of cotton, twist and yarn, was Rs. 19·9 lakhs, of which 56 per cent. by weight and 68 per cent. by value were foreign. Of the cotton piece-goods imported, 78 per cent. in value were manufactured in foreign countries and only 22 per cent. in India. The Surma Valley received the largest quantity.

The import trade of apparel rose from 10,679 maunds to 17,647 maunds. The increase occurred in the Brahmaputra Valley.

Export.

336. Tea is the most important article of export and its value represents about three-fourths of the total value of the exports by rail and river. Of the total quantity exported, 1,886,769 maunds and 723,195 maunds went to Calcutta and Chittagong, respectively, for sale or shipment to foreign countries. The exports increased by 307,030 maunds. The expansion was due to better outturn and higher prices. Next in importance to tea is timber. There was no variation of importance in the quantity of jute exported. The Lower Assam block, as usual, was the largest exporter of jute.

SECTION 9.—Frontier Trade.

System of registration.

337. Efforts have been made during the year to secure greater accuracy in the registration of frontier trade by the appointment of paid Registrars on the busiest routes to replace the previous agents—Mauzadars and police officers. Trade Registrars worked during the year at Tambulpur in Kamrup and Bengbari in Darrang. A post sanctioned for Sadiya was not filled during the year owing to the disturbed state of the Frontier. The results so far are inconclusive. Of the total aggregate value of trade amounting to over 49 lahks, more than 47 lahks were reported as with Bhutan, but it was subsequently discovered that the latter figures had been fabricated and the Registrar was accordingly dismissed. The experiment will be continued in an extended form during the current year.

Trade.

338. The aggregate value of trade reported during the year was Rs. 49,66,107, to which imports contributed Rs. 7,64,357 and exports Rs. 42,01,750. For reasons given above these figures and those in the succeeding paragraph are valueless.

Bhutan. 339. Imports during the year were valued at Rs. 5,95,336, and exports at Rs. 41,82,688, the bulk being reported by the Registrar at Tambulpur.

Towang and Chardwar Bhutias. 340. A small increase in trade, from Rs. 24,011 to Rs. 29,631, is reported. Rubber appears for the first time as an appreciable item of import.

Akas and Daflas. 341. Trade, which is mostly in imported rubber, has diminished, probably owing to the disturbed state of the Frontier. There was practically no export of silk during the year under review.

Abors, Mishmis, etc. 342. Trade has diminished from Rs. 1,80,828 to Rs. 1,04,659 owing probably to the frontier troubles.

SECTION 10.—Public Works.

Personnel. 343. The Hon'ble Mr. F. St. G. Manners Smith, C.I.E., held the office of Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam in the Public Works Department until the province was reconstituted on the 1st April 1912.

The appointment of Superintending Engineer, Assam Circle, was held by Mr. C. A. White up to the 3rd September 1911, when he was relieved by Major H. W. Rushton, R.E., who officiated as Superintending Engineer to the end of the year.

Mr. G. R. Shaw was appointed as an Assistant Engineer (Imperial) and joined the Assam Circle in October 1911.

Changes in Divisions. 344. The Lower Assam Division was transferred to the newly-established Western Circle on the 30th November 1911. It was retransferred to the Assam Circle on the 1st February 1912.

Revenue. 345. The total Public Works revenue amounted to Rs. 95,683, as detailed below :—

	Rs.
Imperial Military	6,711
„ Civil	1,363
Provincial	87,609
Local	2,660
Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation	*Nil*
Total Revenue	98,343

Expenditure. 346. Rents of buildings produced Rs. 70,627, and ferry receipts Rs. 17,948. The remainder was made up of miscellaneous items.

The total expenditure on Public Works amounted to Rs. 38,50,239, as detailed below :—

	Rs.
Imperial Military	58,103
„ Civil	51,951
Provincial Civil	29,26,181
Excluded Local Funds	7,88,961
Contribution Works	11,408
Provincial Irrigation Works	63,635
Total ...	38,50,239

Imperial Works. 347. The construction of combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Umran and Burnihat on the Gauhati-Shillong road was completed. The principal works in progress were the construction of a Telegraph Office building at Gauhati, the extension of the Post Office buildings at Tezpur and Nowgong, and the construction of a Post and Telegraph Office at Haflong. Combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Lungleh and Demagiri in the Lushai Hills neared completion.

Provincial Works, Civil Buildings. Local Government residences. 348. The expenditure on Original Works in connection with provincial buildings was Rs. 5,08,062, and on Repairs Rs. 1,87,948. The special repairs to Government House, Shillong, were completed during the year. Certain additions and alterations were also carried out.

Official residences.

349. Residences were built for the Mechanical Engineer in charge of the Water-works at Gauhati, for the Mistress of the Model Girls' School at Jorhat, and a business and waiting-room was added to the residence of the Commissioner at Gauhati.

Two bungalows in Shillong, "The Nest" and "Taragarh," were purchased as residences for the Inspector-General of Police and the Director of Land Records.

Residences were in process of building for the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Habiganj, the Executive Engineers at Silchar and Tezpur, for the Superintendent of Police at Tezpur, for the Sub-Deputy Collector at Sidli and for the Public Works Subdivisional Officer at North Lakhimpur. The Subdivisional Officer's residence at Lungleh in the Lushai Hills was under reconstruction.

General Administration.

350. The principal works were the construction of office buildings for the Sub-Deputy Collector at Sidli and for a Kanungo at Gosaingaon and additions and alterations to the Treasury building at Tezpur.

Law and Justice.

351. The old circuit-house at Silchar was converted into an annexe to the Deputy Commissioner's Court.

Record racks were placed in the new record-room of the Commissioner's office at Silchar. Work was in progress on the extension of the Munsifi at Karimganj, the construction of a double Munsifi at Sunamganj, the re-roofing of the main rooms of the subdivisional court-house at North Lakhimpur, and on quarters for the civil subordinate staff at Haflong.

Circuit-houses.

352. A new circuit-house was under construction at Jorhat. A motor-shed for the circuit-house at Gauhati and a guard-house for the circuit-house at Dibrugarh were built.

Education.

353. Additions and alterations were made to Pine Mount School, Shillong, and the workshop for the Fuller Industrial School was reconstructed. The High School buildings at Sibsagar were improved and two class-rooms were added to the Middle English School at North Lakhimpur. Additions and improvements were made to the High School building at Nowgong and to the Training School at Silchar. A school building and teacher's quarters were built at Haflong, and the roof of the Government High School building at Sylhet was improved.

Progress was made with the construction of a Muhammadan hostel at Sunamganj, an additional Moslem boarding-house at Silchar, a Hindu hostel and an additional school building for the Jorhat High School, a hostel and additions to the Middle English School at Kakojan, and a boarding-house for Mech boys at Dhubri. Materials were collected for the Murarichand College, Sylhet, and for a Muhammadan hostel at Dibrugarh.

Jails.

354. A European ward was built in the Sylhet Jail and a second gate was made for the Jorhat Jail. The water-supply in the Gauhati Jail was rearranged and the doors in the main ward of the Shillong Jail were improved.

The following works were in progress:—Reconstruction of an office, a guard-room and a work-shed for the sub-jail at Sunamganj; improvements to the jail buildings at Silchar; construction of a lock-up at Barpeta; an office and gateway for the Nowgong Jail; improvements to the Jail Hospital at Gauhati.

Police.

355. Police lines at a total expenditure of Rs. 1,17,445 were made at Barbheta, Jorhat, and a tank was dug for the supply of water. A barrack and cook-shed were built for the constables of the Nazira Union. An outpost was constructed at Lotasil near Gauhati, an investigating centre with staff quarters at Koriapara, and an investigating centre at Jamunamukh.

Quarters for the compounder of the Military Police Hospital at Kohima and for an Armed Inspector at Sylhet were put up. The Police office building at Sylhet was extended. Various sanitary improvements were effected in the lines of the Military Police at Dibrugarh, and a magazine was erected. Buildings were under construction at Sunamganj and Amguri, hospitals at Nowgong and Dhubri, quarters at Haflong; Dhubri, Aijal, Lungleh and Demagiri, and an outpost at Sorbhog.

Medical.

356. A *post-mortem* theatre and two boarding-houses were built for the Berry-White Medical School at Dibrugarh and a dispensary building at Mahendraganj. Quarters were provided for an Assistant Surgeon and a Sub-Assistant Surgeon at Shillong and additions and alterations were made to the dispensary buildings. At Aijal an office was built for the Civil Surgeon and two wards were added to the hospital.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The following works were in progress:—

Mortuary buildings at Habiganj, Karimganj, Maulvi Bazar and Silchar, wards for in-patients at the Mokokchang Dispensary, an additional ward for the Dispensary at Wokha and a Dispensary building at Gunjong. Improvements to the Charitable Dispensary at Kohima were also nearing completion.

Excise.

357. Various improvements and minor works were carried out at the Central Distillery at Jorhat. The works in progress were a bonded warehouse at Nazira and quarters for the staff of the bonded warehouse at Chhatak.

Registration.

358. A Sub-Registry office at Srimangal in the Sylhet district was under construction.

Agriculture.

359. A power-house was erected with an installation of 3 roller sugarcane mills and a Hornsby Oil Engine for the Jorhat Farm. The veterinary buildings at Shillong neared completion.

Forests.

360. Certain additions and alterations to the Forest office at Sylhet were carried out.

Public Works Department buildings.

361. An office for the Executive Engineer at Gauhati, store godowns at Goalpara and Barpeta, and magazines for the storage of explosives at Gauhati, Shillong and Umran were the principal works carried out under this head.

Communications.

362. On Original Works, Communications, a sum of Rs. 5,71,587 was expended as noted below :—

	Rs.
(*a*) Bridges	79,756
(*b*) New cart roads	72,843
(*c*) Bridle roads	29,600
(*d*) Dâk and Inspection Bungalows	64,975
(*e*) Survey of roads	1,759
Total ...	2,48,933

This expenditure was divided as follows :—

	Rs.
Assam Circle	2,17,299
Lushai Hills	31,634

The balance was utilised on improvements to existing roads.

Roads.

363. The metalling, raising and improving of the Assam Trunk road and the replacement of temporary bridges were continued. Four permanent bridges in the Sibsagar Division were completed, as also an iron bridge in the 12th mile east of Gauhati, and 2 screw pile bridges in the 73rd and 74th miles in the Lower Assam Division. The road was also raised and improved in the Lower and Central Assam Divisions.

The replacement of temporary bridges by permanent structures on the first fourteen miles of the extension of the North Trunk road in the Lakhimpur Division was completed and the survey for a further extension of the road was practically completed. The bridge across the Morajan was finished and other permanent bridges were under construction.

Work on improving the curves and gradients on Gauhati-Shillong road was continued. The total expenditure at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 1,32,244.

The total expenditure to the end of the year on the improvement of Dimapur-Manipur road amounted to Rs. 6,15,612. The work was in progress.

The improvements to Kothiatoli-Amluki road were continued.

Metalling of the roads in the neighbourhood of Jorhat town was continued and the cart road from the Noali to the Cinnamara road was nearly completed.

Special repairs to the bridges on the Golaghat-Dimapur road were completed.

The restoration of Goramur road from North Lakhimpur to Lohit was in progress.

The improvement of the old Rajgarh Ali road from Tinkhang to Namrup was in progress.

The Palasbari-Burdwar and Nalbari-Dhamdhama roads were taken over from the Gauhati Local Board for improvement.

Work on the Chapar-Sidli road, which is to serve as a feeder to the Eastern Bengal State Railway, was in progress.

On the Cachar-Manipur road the diversion at the Chiri river encroachment was completed and metalling was continued.

The Sylhet-Peterganj road was completed.

The embanked portion of Kanaibazar-Ratabari cart road in the plains was in progress and materials for bridges were collected.

The diversions of Sylhet-Cachar Trunk road at the 51st and 55th miles were in progress. Materials were collected for the replacement of bamboo bridges.

The improvement of Therria-Companyganj bridle road which included the construction of the Amani bridge was completed. The renewal of the boulder *bund* at the Juli river was also completed. The construction of the Bordeo bridge was in progress. The provision of open anchorages to the Tuichung suspension bridge, in mile 34 of the Lungleh-Demagiri road, was one of the most important works of this class in the Lushai Hills. The estimated cost is Rs. 11,000. Stones are being boated from Demagiri, a distance of 10 miles, and dressed. Concrete work on both banks was completed and stone masonry was in progress. European stores have also been collected at the site. The construction of a light wire suspension bridge across the Sonai river, another work of importance in the Lushai Hills, was also in progress.

Dâk and Inspection Bungalows.

364. A new Dâk Bungalow near the Railway station at Gauhati was practically completed at the close of the year. Inspection Bungalows were constructed at Sutnga in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and at Rongmachakgiri in the Garo Hills. Work on the Dâk Bungalow at Chhatak, the Inspection Bungalows at Saikhowa and Phulbari and those on the old Sema road in the Naga Hills was in progress.

Maintenance of roads.

365. On the maintenance of communications Rs. 8,31,173 were expended, the following being the classes and the length of the roads that were kept up :—

	Miles.
Metalled roads	375·74
Unmetalled roads including bridle roads	3,559·07

The total expenditure on the above covers the maintenance of Dâk and Inspection Bungalows and includes the contribution of Rs. 30,000 from the Manipur State towards the up-keep of the Dimapur-Manipur cart road.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

366. Land was acquired at Jorhat for European officers' residences. Certain improvements to the Station roads and the drainage channels and water-supply at Shillong were carried out at a cost of Rs. 8,356.

The water-works at Haflong were practically completed. Half the estimated cost was contributed by the Assam-Bengal Railway.

Contribution works.

367. A scheme was sanctioned to provide for a more ample and purer supply of water to the Civil Station and Cantonment at Shillong, but very little work was done during the year owing to the late arrival of the materials from Calcutta. An operation room for the Dhubri Hospital, a Hindu hostel for the Nazira Aided High School, and a combined Local Board and Municipal Office building at Tezpur were under construction. Well borings in Goalpara, Darrang and Sylhet were in progress. The levelling of the Golaghat *maidan* was continued.

Minor Works and Navigation.

368. Messrs. Kilburn & Co. dredged the Surma river at Shaitankhal. Snags were removed from the Barak and Kusiara rivers in Cachar and from the Desang and its tributaries in Sibsagar. Bandalling at the mouth of the Desang river was continued. The improvement of the Subansiri river for navigation was completed at a cost of Rs. 3,255. The cutting of a portion of the bed of the Kullong river in the Nowgong district, along the lower mouth of its intake, in order to improve its navigation, was commenced.

Railways and Tramways.

369. Improvements were made in the embankments along the banks of the Brahmaputra, Bhogdoi, Dikhu and Dehing rivers in the Sibsagar district. The restoration of the old Kharoi bund near Kolabari in the Tezpur subdivision was completed at a cost of Rs. 8,462.

During the year no new railway line was opened to traffic. The total mileage of open line in the Province was 871·52 miles, as shown below :—

(1) Dhubri and Gauhati sections of the Eastern Bengal State Railway ...	160·75
(2) Assam-Bengal Railway (Assam portion)	569·15
(3) Jorhat Provincial State Railway...	30·00
(4) Dibru-Sadiya Railway (including Colliery Branch)	91·52
(5) Tezpur-Balipara Railway	20·10
Total ...	871·52

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Jorhat Provincial State Railway (*gauge* 2 *feet*).—The total capital outlay, including suspense, to the end of December 1911, amounted to Rs. 9,72,295. Gross earnings for the year 1911 amounted to Rs. 1,09,457 and the working expenses to Rs. 78,103, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 31,354 against Rs. 7,529 in the previous year.

Dibru-Sadiya Railway System (*gauge* 3′-3⅜″).—This consists of:—

	Miles.
(*a*) Dibru-Sadiya Railway (including Saikhowaghat Branch)	86·02
(*b*) Ledo and Tikak-Margherita Colliery Railway	5·50
	91·52

The total capital outlay, including suspense, to the end of December 1911, amounted to Rs. 1,01,56,044. The gross earnings for the year 1911 amounted to Rs. 11,88,872 and the working expenses to Rs. 7,58,164, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 4,30,708 against Rs. 4,46,417 in the previous year.

Ledo-Tikak-Margherita Colliery Railway.—The capital outlay on this Railway remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, Rs. 16,94,069. The gross earnings for the year 1911 amounted to Rs. 83,118 and the working expenses to Rs. 52,689, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 30,429 against Rs. 32,441 in the previous year.

Assam-Bengal Railway (*gauge* 3′-3⅜″).—The total mileage of the line open at the end of the year 1911 was 569·15 (Assam portion only). During the year no addition was made to this.

The branch line from Kulaura station to the Kusiara river, 15·13 miles, was completed during the year, but was not opened for traffic until the 16th April 1912.

Surveys were completed during the year for light railways or tramways between the following places :—

Srimangal and Maulvi Bazar.
Maulvi Bazar and Monumukh.
Sealtick and Lalla Bazar.
Shaistaganj and Habiganj.
Shaistaganj and Begumkhan.

Eastern Bengal State Railway (*gauge* 3′-3⅜″).—The total mileage of open line is 160·75 miles (Assam portion).

The Rangia-Tangla Branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway has been completed, but was not open to traffic at the close of the year under report. An extension of this branch line to Tezpur is under the consideration of the Railway Board.

Tezpur-Balipara Railway (*gauge* 2′-6″).—The total capital outlay, including suspense, to the end of 1911 amounted to Rs. 4,87,240, giving an average of Rs. 24,362 per mile. The gross earnings for the year 1911 amounted to Rs. 1,14,875 and the working expenses to Rs. 82,982, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 31,892 against Rs. 25,945 in the previous year. The Dwara-Therria Railway, which last year was purchased with its property and rights by Messrs. H. V. Low & Co., of Calcutta, was under completion.

Assistance rendered to Local Boards.

370. Local Board projects were professionally scrutinised and their works inspected by Executive Engineers from time to time. Certain of the Boards' works were also check-measured.

Cost of establishment.

371. The total charges for Public Works Establishment amounted to Rs. 6,70,559.

For the execution of Imperial Military and Civil Works a charge of 23 per cent. on the cost of works carried out is made. The amount charged during the year was Rs. 19,347.

The cost of establishment, *viz.*, Rs. 6,70,559, amounts to 29·58 per cent. of the outlay on works carried out by the Department.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Gross Revenue.

372. The receipts and charges of this Province during 1911-12 are shown in the table below :—

RECEIPTS.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Principal Heads of Revenue—			
I.—Land Revenue	36,38,615	36,38,615	72,77,230
II.—Opium	5,13,410	...	5,13,410
III.—Salt	840	...	840
IV.—Stamps	6,01,949	6,01,949	12,03,898
V.—Excise	...	44,48,664	44,48,664
VI.—Provincial Rates	...	8,358	8,358
VII.—Customs	...	...	...
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	1,87,866	1,87,866	3,75,732
IX.—Forest	...	11,45,910	11,45,910
X.—Registration	...	92,374	92,374
XI.—Tributes	50,200	...	50,200
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue ...	49,92,880	1,01,23,736	1,51,16,616
B.—Interest—			
XII.—Interest	...	10,840	10,840
D.—Receipts by Civil Department—			
XVI-A.—Law and Justice (Courts of Law) ...	...	1,29,444	1,29,444
XIV-B.—Law and Justice (Jails)	...	1,03,003	1,03,003
XVII.—Police	...	1,03,460	1,03,460
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	...	72	72
XIX.—Education	...	88,664	88,664
XX.—Medical	...	16,185	16,185
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	...	22,861	22,861
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments ...	...	4,63,689	4,63,689
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Deposits—			
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ...	30,062	4,548	34,610
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	893	20,940	21,833
XXV.—Miscellaneous	5,915	41,805	47,720
Total E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts ...	36,870	67,293	1,04,163
H.—Railways—			
XXVI.—State Railways (Gross Receipts) ...	...	1,16,465	1,16,465
Deduct.—Working expenses	...	84,107	84,107
Net Railway Receipts	...	32,358	32,358
J.—Irrigation—			
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation... ...	...	...	...
K.—Other Public Works—			
XXXI.—Civil Works—			
Civil	...	46,629	46,629
Public Works	1,363	87,609	88,972
Total K.—Other Public Works ...	1,363	1,34,238	1,35,601
L.—Military Receipts—			
XXXIV.—Military Works	...	...	...
Grand total	50,31,113	1,08,32,154	1,58,63,267

EXPENDITURE.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
A.—Direct demands on the Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	11,830	18,099	29,929
2.—Assignments and compensation	28,456	16,026	44,482
3.—Land Revenue	1,398	15,07,733	15,09,131
5.—Salt	4,775	...	4,775
6.—Stamps	26,775	26,775	53,550
7.—Excise	...	1,14,529	1,14,529
8.—Provincial Rates	...	...	...
9.—Customs	...	...	...
10.—Assessed Taxes	2,947	2,946	5,893
11.—Forest	...	8,40,830	8,40,830
12.—Registration	...	57,456	57,456
Total A.—Direct demands on the Revenue ...	76,181	25,84,394	26,60,575
B.—Interest—			
13.—Interest on ordinary debt	...	6,866	6,866
14.—Interest on other obligation	4,890	...	4,890
Total B.—Interest	4,890	6,866	11,756
D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments—			
18.—General Administration	1,70,112	6,11,962	7,82,074
19A.—Law and Justice (Courts of Law) ...	...	9,34,162	9,34,162
19B.—Law and Justice (Jails)	...	2,60,739	2,60,739
20.—Police	...	19,05,068	19,05,068
21.—Ports and Pilotage	...	39,589	39,589
22.—Education	...	7,07,301	7,07,301
23.—Ecclesiastical	22,968	...	22,968
24.—Medical	...	5,75,046	5,75,046
25.—Political	...	4,41,099	4,41,099
26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	74,099	1,33,679	2,07,778
Total D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments	2,67,179	56,08,645	58,75,824
E.—Miscellaneous—			
27.—Territorial and Political Pensions ...	5,517	...	5,517
28.—Civil furlough and absentee allowances ...	...	...	...
29.—Superannuation allowances and pensions ...	...	2,32,665	2,32,665
30.—Stationery and Printing	159	1,62,925	1,63,084
32.—Miscellaneous	12,580	3,38,751	3,51,331
Total E.—Miscellaneous	18,256	7,34,341	7,52,597
F.—Famine Relief and Insurance—			
33.—Famine Relief	...	...	...
35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works ...	314	...	314
Total F.—Famine Relief and Insurance ...	314	...	314
H.—Railway Revenue Accounts—			
40.—Subsidized Companies	...	5,408	5,408
41.—Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure ...	...	9,643	9,643
Total H.—Railway Revenue Accounts	...	15,051	15,051
J.—Irrigation—			
43.—Minor Works and Navigation	...	63,676	63,676
K.—Other Public Works—			
44.—Construction of Railways	...	12,535	12,535
45.—Civil Works	52,264	33,16,096	33,68,360
Total K.—Other Public Works	52,264	33,28,631	33,80,895
L.—Military Services—			
47.—Military Works	...	...	...
Grand total	4,19,084	1,23,41,604	1,27,60,688

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditures.

	1910-1911.			1911-1912.			1911-1912 compared with 1910-1911.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts or net expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts or net expenditure.	Increase of revenues.	Decrease of revenues.	Increase of expenditure.	Decrease of expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.(*a*) Principal Heads of Revenue.	1,50,59,366	27,03,844	1,23,55,522	1,51,16,616	26,60,575	1,24,56,041	57,250	...	...	43,269
II. Departmental Heads—										
(*b*) Interest ...	11,599	14,076	—2,477	10,840	11,756	—916	...	759	...	2,320
(*d*) Civil Department ...	4,55,467	55,76,162	—51,20,695	4,63,689	58,75,824	—54,12,135	8,222	...	2,99,662	...
(*e*) Miscellaneous ...	90,869	8,35,030	—7,44,161	1,04,163	7,52,597	—6,48,434	13,294	...	...	82,433
(*f*) Famine Relief and Insurance.	...	152	—152	...	314	—314	...	...	162	...
(*h*) Railway Revenue Accounts.	14,505	12,036	2,469	32,358	15,051	17,307	17,853	...	3,015	...
(*i*) and (*j*) Irrigation ...	...	38,343	—38,343	...	63,676	—63,676	...	...	25,333	...
(*k*) Other Public Works...	1,61,347	25,71,229	—24,09,882	1,35,601	33,80,895	—32,45,294	...	25,746	8,09,666	...
Total Departmental Heads...	7,33,787	90,47,028	—83,13,241	7,46,651	1,01,00,113	—93,53,462	39,369	26,505	11,37,838	84,753
Grand total	1,57,93,153	1,17,50,872	40,42,281	1,58,63,267	1,27,60,688	31,02,579	96,619	26,505	11,37,838	1,38,022

373. The expenditure of the year compares as follows with that of 1910-11.

LAND REVENUE.

No.	Minor heads.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	Rs.
1	Charges of District Administration	55,000	...
2	Management of Government Estates	...	4,000
3	Commission on collections	20,000	...
4	Survey and Settlement	...	1,19,000
5	Land Records	...	28,000

Excluding expenditure on State Railways the total expenditure of the Province amounted to Rs. 1,27,60,688, or Rs. 38,95,551 in excess of the year 1904-1905.

B.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

SECTION I.—Land Revenue.

Land Revenue.

374. The total ordinary land revenue demand for the year amounted to Rs. 72,36,111, of which Rs. 69,08,979 were collected and Rs. 7,615 remitted on account of local calamities. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of Rs. 1,00,773 in the demand and of Rs. 55,470 in the collections and a decrease of Rs. 22,226 in the remissions. The total collections of Miscellaneous land revenue rose from Rs. 6,01,658 to Rs. 6,22,599, while remissions decreased from Rs. 6,229 to Rs. 3,889.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

SECTION 2.—Sources of the revenue other than land revenue.

Opium. 375. The receipts on account of opium amounted to Rs. 5,13,410 as compared with Rs. 5,13,272 in the previous year.

Revenue and Finance. Salt

376. There were salt transactions in the district of Sylhet only, where Messrs. Turner, Morrison & Co. had a salt bonded warehouse at Balaganj. The quantity of salt imported during the year amounted to 66,975 maunds, or 23,023 maunds more than in 1910-1911. There was an increase amounting to 1,587 maunds in the actual clearances of salt over those of the previous year which is attributed to the gradual disappearance of the boycott of imported salt. The average wholesale price per maund in the bazar in the district headquarters during the year was the same as in the preceding year, *viz.*, Rs. 2-4 a maund. The net revenue was Rs. 60,444 against Rs. 52,574 in 1910-1911, being an increase of Rs. 7,870 or 13·02 per cent.

Excise.

377. The total revenue demand for the year amounted to Rs. 44,50,807, which represents an increase of Rs. 1,17,996 or 2·7 per cent. The larger receipts, to which both the valleys of the Province contributed, under the heads "License fees and duty," were due to favourable settlements and to a greater consumption of country spirit and *ganja*. Of the total recoverable demand 99·93 per cent. was realised, the total receipts amounting to Rs. 44,43,910 against Rs. 43,10,310 in the previous year. The total expenditure of the Department rose from Rs. 1,02,783 to Rs. 1,09,765 and represents 2·47 per cent. of the total receipts. As in the preceding year two systems for the manufacture of country liquor were in force, *viz.*, the contract supply system and the outstill system. The revenue from country spirit rose by a little over 5 per cent., 98·29 per cent. being derived under the contract supply system. Receipts from *ganja* were better by Rs. 15,613 consequent upon the larger consumption of this drug, the total income yielded thereby being Rs. 6,88,645. The total revenue from opium rose to Rs. 25,22,355, being an increase of Rs. 59,646, or 2·36 per cent. The increase was due to good settlements and was shared by both valleys.

A steady decrease of drunkenness, since the substitution of the distillery for the outstill system, is reported from all districts. The year under review was the last of the term of the Jorhat Distillery contract, which expired on the 31st March 1912. It has been renewed for three years, with effect from the 1st April 1912, with the former contractors, Messrs. Forbes and Chalmers, the rates of duty and cost price being fixed at Rs. 3-2 and Re. 1-13, respectively.

Rules under the Eastern Bengal and Assam Excise Act were published during the year and have, together with the Act, been brought into force from the 1st April 1912 in the districts to which the Act applies *proprio vigore*.

Local opinion was freely consulted as to the location of shops, and the sites of several shops were changed in deference to the wishes of the public. One shop was abolished to meet the objections of the planting community.

Measures in connection with the smuggling of exciseable articles from Hill Tippera and Cooch Behar formed the subject of negotiation with those States. An arrangement with Cooch Behar has since been arrived at. The arrangements in regard to the Hill Tippera border excise shops are still under consideration.

Stamps.

378. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court Fees Acts amounted to Rs. 11,85,941, as compared with Rs. 11,39,581 in the preceding year. The charges rose from Rs. 32,899 to Rs. 40,391. The increase in revenue is entirely due to the increased sale of Judicial stamps and was shared by both the Valleys of the Province. The number of vendors for the sale of stamps rose from 295 to 319, the most noticeable increase being in Sylhet. There was an increase of 14 in the number of stamp prosecutions and of Rs. 31 in the amount of the fines imposed. Twenty-one cases of the valuation of estates for the issue of probates or letters of administration were reported to Collectors as against 30 in the preceding year. All of them were enquired into.

Income-tax.

379. The total income-tax receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 3,75,045 as compared with Rs. 3,41,612 in 1910-1911, being an increase of 8·9 per cent. The increase was shared by both the Valleys. The number of persons finally assessed and the final demand for the year were 4,436 and Rs. 3,03,044, respectively.

SECTION 3.—Provincial Finance.

380. There was no separate Financial Settlement for Assam for the year 1911-1912, as it then formed part of the late Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

SECTION 4.—Local Funds.

381. The following statement shows the receipts and charges during the year of those Local Funds of which an account is submitted to Government :—

Class of Fund.	No.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Local Boards	19	4,54,029 15 3	16,80,659 12 10	21,34,689 12 1	17,11,300 7 1	4,23,389 5 0
Municipalities	16	65,746 8 9	5,35,642 0 3	6,01,388 9 0	4,12,499 13 3	1,88,888 11 9
Town and Bazar Funds	4	6,698 3 4	10,511 0 11	17,209 4 3	9,897 5 11	7,311 14 4
Cantonment Funds	2	2,606 11 2	12,353 10 7	14,960 5 9	12,398 3 2	2,562 2 7
District Chaukidari Reward Fund ...	3	24,204 8 2	5,518 13 6	29,723 5 8	9,50 12 0	20,132 9 8
Assam Williamson Education Fund	1	12,194 14 4	3,920 10 8	16,115 9 0	2,525 13 5	13,589 11 7
Grand Total ...		5,65,480 13 0	22,48,606 0 9	28,14,086 13 9	21,58,212 6 10	6,55,874 6 11
			28,14,086 13 9		28,14,086 13 9	

382. Local Boards exist in all the plains district.

383. The large closing balance in the above account is due to some extent to Government grants given towards the close of the year not having been expended before the 31st March 1912.

SECTION 5.—Local Rates.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1911-12.]

384. Except in the case of revenue-free and permanently-settled estates, the assessment of local rates is made on the land revenue demand, and the fluctuations in the latter demand, therefore, generally account for the fluctuations in local rates.

The current demand rose from Rs. 7,68,420 to Rs. 7,73,444, the increase being due to a corresponding increase in the land revenue demand as regards temporarily-settled estates. In Sylhet, there was a slight decrease in the demand owing to a revision of the assessment on certain permanently-settled estates as a result of objections. The total collections rose from Rs. 7,62,775 to Rs. 7,69,859, leaving a balance of Rs. 89,641 against Rs. 87,778 in the previous year. The percentage of total collections on total demand fell from 89·89 to 87·44.

SECTION 6.—Education Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 7.—Municipal Revenue.

385. The subject of Municipal Revenue is discussed in section 8, Chapter III of this Report.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION 1.—Vital Statistics.

386. For the purpose of vital statistics the ratios are calculated on a population of 6,078,803, the population of the hill districts being excluded. The provincial birth-rate for the year was 31·84 per mille, being lower than that of the previous year by 4·68 per mille. The death rate was 23·51 per mille which represents a decrease of 10·86 per mille as compared with that of 1910 (34·37). The ratios of mortality from the chief diseases were : fever 13·09, dysentery and diarrhœa 2·14, cholera 1·21 and small-pox ·26. The highest mortality was from fever. The highest ratio of mortality from cholera was recorded in Cachar (2·61) and Sylhet (1·80) ; from dysentery and diarrhœa in Darrang (4·59) and Lakhimpur (4·26) ; from small-pox in Kamrup (·97) ; and from fever in Goalpara (25·62).

The registration of vital statistics in the hill districts is carried out on a modified system. The following table gives the recorded results of the year :—

District.	Birth ratios.		Death ratios.	
	Average, 1908—10.	1911.	Average, 1908—10.	1911.
1	2	3	4	5
Garo Hills ... ... / Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	...
Shillong	18·98	25·29	12·00	15·54
Naga Hills	28·88	32·60	28·47	21·04
Lushai Hills	38·71	41·16	34·96	28·65

SECTION 2.—Immigration and Labour Inspection.

[*See* Resolution on Immigrant Labour in Assam for the year 1911-1912.]

387. The labour force dealt with in this report is that imported for employment on tea gardens in Assam, in the oil refinery at Digboi, in coal mines, and in certain saw-mills. The labour employed on railways is excluded, and no account is taken of those labourers who are temporarily employed during the cold weather and return to their homes in April and May.

The year was again a prosperous one for the tea industry. The demand for labour steadily increased, and there was an increase of immigration into every district of the province although this was not assisted by scarcity in the recruiting districts. Many of the District Officers speak of the gradual removal of the prejudice against Assam, and hold that the greater freedom of labour conditions and the attraction of land for cultivation are having effect in the recruiting districts.

General. 388. Last year's report described the suggested changes in the system of labour and recruitment, and stated that the Tea Industry and the Local Government had been consulted. The Chief Commissioner has had the labour question under his most careful consideration, and has formed very definite views as to what would be in the best interests of the Tea Industry. Inasmuch, however, as the subject is now under the consideration of the Government of India, he does not think that it would be proper for him to enter into a discussion on the present occasion of the points at issue.

Still further progress was made in the gradual substitution of free for indentured labour, and further areas were leased from Government by managers on special terms with the object of giving their coolies rice fields of their own to cultivate. The Chief Commissioner is anxious to continue the policy of his predecessors in the matter of making lands available for the purpose indicated, and will always receive sympathetically applications to that effect.

In the course of the year renewed complaints were received of the absconding of labourers from the tea gerdens in Sylhet into Hill Tippera, and of the manner in which warrants under Act XIII of 1859 issued by British Courts were executed in the State. The Indian Tea Association represented to the Local Administration that, while recognising that in the case of free labour the annual loss sustained to tea

gardens through the attraction of the low rents ruling in Hill Tippera must be faced, they were entitled to claim that warrants, when issued, should be executed effectively. The justice of this claim is undoubted, and the Chief Commissioner has addressed the Government of Bengal accordingly.

389. At the close of the year the total strength of the force was 791,462. The number of Act labourers fell to 14,279. Strength and distribution of the labour force.

390. The improvement in the health of coolies during transit continued in spite of the increase in the number of immigrants, and the year was a healthy one in the tea gardens. One hundred and two complaints of fraudulent or irregular recruitment were made, of which 51 were found to be true. Health.

391. Act XIII of 1859 continued to be largely used, and is again reported to have worked well on the whole. The successful working of the Act requires a certain amount of give and take on the part of both employers and labourers and the manner in which it was worked affords a gratifying testimony to the general good sense and good feelings that mark the relations between employers and employed in the tea districts. Act XIII of 1859.

392. Nine complaints of ill-treatment were made by coolies against their employers during the year. In two instances the complaints were found to be true. Applications for discharge certificates were successful in 214 cases. Managers during the year instituted 984 cases under Act XIII, of which 391 were decided in favour of the complainants. Ten cases of riot or unlawful assembly and five charges of assault were instituted by managers. The number of desertions of Act-VI labourers reported was 1,885. Miscellaneous.

At the close of the year the area of Government land settled direct with time-expired coolies was 185,404 acres, while several blocks of Government land were settled with tea planters on special terms to enable them to allow their coolies to cultivate. In addition to the land held direct from Government *ex*-coolies also occupy large tracts as sub-tenants. The relations between planters and the neighbouring villagers are reported to have been generally good.

SECTION 3.—Charitable Dispensaries.

[*See* Dispensary Returns of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1911 and Statistics of British India, Part V.]

393. At the close of the year there were 206 hospitals and dispensaries working in the Province, of which 124 are supported mainly by local bodies and 15 by private persons or Missionary bodies, the others being maintained by the State. Dispensaries.

The number of patients treated at these dispensaries was 1,518,824 in 1911 against 1,488,214 in the previous year. Six of the dispensaries treated more than 20,000 patients each and 17 between 15,000 and 20,000, the number treated by the remaining dispensaries being below 15,000 each.

For indoor patients 639 beds were available in the State-public, Local Fund and private-aided dispensaries and the total number of in-patients treated was 8,195.

394. In the Leper Asylum at Sylhet, which is the only institution of its kind in the Province, 20 patients were under treatment at the close of the year. The daily average of patients treated rose from 17·32 in 1910 to 21·01 in 1911. Only 12 patients were treated with Dr. Deycke's Nastine during the first half of the year; but from the middle of the year this mode of treatment was adopted in the case of all patients in the Asylum and the results were very encouraging. Leper Asylum.

SECTION 4.—Lunatic Asylums.

[*See* Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the years 1909, 1910 and 1911; also Statistics of British India, Part V.]

395. During the year 1911, 40 patients were admitted and 3 re-admitted into the Tezpur Lunatic Asylum, which is the only institution of its kind in the province. The number of discharges was 24, while 23 died in the Asylum, the year closing with 232 insane persons under confinement. About one-third of the inmates were criminal lunatics. Cultivators and tea-garden coolies constituted the majority of the admissions. Asylum population.

Fifty-three per cent. of the inmates remaining at the close of the year were suffering from mania and 35 per cent. from melancholia.

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The causes of insanity amongst the lunatics admitted during the year were ascertainable in 11 cases only. Of these, 10 cases were due to physical causes, *ganja*-smoking being responsible for 6 cases, epilepsy for 3 and pneumonia for 1.

Health of the Inmates.

396 The number of admissions to hospital was 149 and the number of deaths 23. Of the total number of deaths, 10 were due to tubercle of the lungs, 4 to anæmia and 2 each to dysentry, fever, pneumonia and acute mania, while one committed suicide by jumping into the asylum well. Special steps are being taken to segregate completely the patients suffering from tubercular diseases.

Cost of maintenance.

397. The average annual cost of maintaining each lunatic was Rs. 98-4-10, or about a rupee in excess of what it was in the previous year.

Accommodation.

398. There was great overcrowding in the asylum as in previous years. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals has been asked to submit proposals for a considerable extension of the buildings. It is hoped that the provision of more accommodation will improve the general health of the inmates which has not been satisfactory.

SECTION 5.—Sanitation.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1911.]

Municipal expenditure.

399. The aggregate income of Municipal institutions, excluding opening balances, was Rs. 5,36,892, or an increase of Rs. 1,80,010 on the figures of the preceding year, which was entirely accounted for by large grants-in-aid of water-supply schemes made by Government to the Shillong and Jorhat Municipalities. The total expenditure incurred on sanitation was Rs. 2,29,194.

Sanitary works and schemes.

400. The Shillong water-works were completed during the year, Government contributing Rs. 81,190 towards the project, and the town has now an excellent piped supply of water. Improvements were effected in the management of the water-works at Gauhati.

A drainage and water-supply scheme for the town of Sylhet is under consideration and was referred to a committee after the close of year.

Sale of quinine.

401. The new "Treatments" of hydrochloride of quinine, which have been substituted for the pice-packets of the sulphate, were introduced towards the close of the year 1910. By the beginning of 1911 sales were satisfactorily established in every district, 3,983 parcels or roughly 526lbs. being disposed of during the year against 392lbs. in the preceding year.

Epidemics.

402. The investigation into the *kala-azar* outbreak in Golaghat subdivision, mentioned in last year's report, was continued. A special hospital has been built at Khumtai for the accommodation of patients who are willing to undergo treatment with "Salvarsan." Two other local outbreaks of the disease, one in Kamrup and the other in Sylhet, were also investigated. In the case of Sylhet the disease was found to exist in endemic form in certain villages. The enquiry is still in progress.

SECTION 6.—Vaccination.

[*See* Vaccination Returns of the Province of Assam for the year 1911-12 and Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Part V.]

403. Vaccinations are performed by 331 departmental vaccinators and by garden doctors on tea gardens. The number of operations during the year was 305,845 against 257,693 during the previous year; the increase occurred mainly in Sylhet and Kamrup. In the latter district a large number of Mahapurushias who had previously refused vaccination submitted to the operation. The percentage of success in operations by vaccinators, who perform by far the greatest portion of the work, was 98·19 per cent. in primary vaccinations, and 80·23 in re-vaccinations. Deaths from small-pox amounted to ·35 per mille against ·28 per mille in the previous year.

The inspecting staff consisted of 9 Inspectors and 18 Sub-Inspectors who inspected 64·11 per cent. of the primary vaccinations and 36·59 per cent. of the re-vaccinations. Inspections by Civil Surgeons have improved.

All the operations were performed with glycerinated lymph, manufactured at the Shillong Vaccine Depôt, which was of excellent quality throughout the year. An interesting experiment was carried out during the year in order to ascertain the cause of previous failures in the months of October and November. Special care was taken to ensure a strain of good potency in the lymph manufactured, and special means were adopted to keep the lymph supplied to certain districts at a low temperature till it was used. No special precautions were taken with the lymph supplied to other districts. The results showed that temperature or mode of storage had no effect on the quality of the lymph, which depended entirely on the methods employed in its preparation.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Controlling Agencies.

404. The Education Department is controlled by the Director of Public Instruction. The Director is assisted by two Inspectors of Schools—one in immediate educational charge of each Commissioner's Division—and one Inspectress. The Assam Valley Inspector has an Assistant Inspector under him. Working under the Inspector in each Division is a Deputy Inspector who is also educational adviser of the Local Board. In certain of the subdivisions where the schools are numerous the Deputy Inspector is aided by a Sub-Inspector or Sub-Inspectors. These officers are all Government servants paid from provincial revenues. Sub-Inspectors confine their inspections to Primary schools; Deputy Inspectors inspect Middle schools, also both English and Vernacular, and indigenous institutions such as *Tols* and *Maktabs*; the Inspector is charged with the inspection of all schools in his circle and in particular of Secondary English schools and Training schools, while the Assistant Inspector, who has no independent authority, relieves the Inspector of a share of his administrative and other duties. The Inspectress is the adviser of the Department in matters affecting female education. She is entitled to inspect all classes of girls' schools and a number of the schools at headquarters stations are under her administrative charge.

Colleges are under the immediate charge of Principals who work under the Director. They are subject to inspection by the University, but not by any member of the general inspecting staff.

Schools of all classes are periodically inspected by the Divisional Commissioners and District and Subdivisional Officers.

Local Boards in Assam have been vested with certain powers over education. Each has an Education Committee, of which the Deputy Inspector of Schools is an *ex-officio* member.

In the Hill Districts schools are for the most part under Mission management. They receive aid from provincial revenues and are subject to inspection by the officers of the Department. The principal Mission agency in the educational field in Assam is the Welsh Calvinistic Mission, which has by its energy and liberality succeeded in making the Khasi and Jaintia Hills one of the most literate districts of the Province.

Grant-in-aid Rules.

405. The great majority of institutions in Assam are under public management. Out of a total of 3,982 recognized schools, 101 are managed by Government and 2,850 by Local or Municipal Boards. Of the remainder 653 are aided institutions.

Grants are given by local bodies or from provincial funds to assist private enterprize in education. These may be either capital grants towards the cost of land, buildings or equipment, or maintenance grants to supplement receipts from fees and private subscriptions. The system of grants-in-aid does not work particularly well in Assam. It has not been found possible to raise the fee income to a figure which would suffice for effective maintenance, and the greatest difficulty is found in obtaining any help from private subscriptions. Large incomes are very uncommon, towns are small and few in number, and public spirit is undeveloped.

Classification of institutions.

406. Educational Institutions in Assam are of three classes:—Collegiate, Secondary and Primary. Secondary schools are classed as High or Middle, and Middle schools as English or Vernacular. Primary and Middle Vernacular schools form one system, Middle English schools and High schools another. But the pupil who passes out from a Primary or Middle Vernacular school can enter a High or Middle English school at any class for which he is qualified by the state of his advancement.

Collegiate education.

407. There are two Colleges in Assam, both State managed and both affiliated to the University of Calcutta. One is at Gauhati for the Assam Valley and the other at Sylhet for the Surma Valley. The Gauhati College is a first-grade institution affiliated up to the B. A. standard, the Murarichand College, a second-grade institution affiliated up to the Intermediate standard only. The Gauhati College is under the management of a Governing Body consisting of the Divisional Commissioner as President, the Principal as Vice-President and Secretary, and a senior Professor. A similar committee has recently been constituted for the Murarichand College under the presidentship of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

INSTRUCTION.

Secondary Education.

408. As already stated, Secondary schools are classed as High or Middle. High schools are those institutions which are permitted by the University of Calcutta to present pupils for its matriculation, the examination for which fulfils the double function of a University Entrance test and a school leaving examination. There are 27 High schools for boys and one for girls in the Province, of which 11 are State schools, 9 are private schools towards the maintenance of which Government makes a fixed contribution, and 8 are unaided private schools. There are 10 classes in the full High School course. English begins to be taught in class III, and in class VII becomes the medium of instruction. Classes I and II are not generally formed, pupils taking their admission for the first time in class III after studying the elements in a vernacular school.

The course of instruction in a Middle English school is the same as in classes I-VI of a High school. There are 98 Middle English schools in the Province—95 for boys and 3 for girls. Of these 6 are managed by the State and 12 by Local Boards. Of the remainder 63 are aided and 17 unaided.

Middle Vernacular schools develop the curriculum of Primary schools on purely vernacular lines and offer a course of instruction complete in itself. Vernacular instruction beyond the primary stage is not popular, as is evidenced by the fact that there are in all only 41 Middle Vernacular schools in the Province (6 for girls), all of which are either managed or aided by the State or by Local Boards.

The foregoing remarks with regard to curricula do not apply to Girls' schools for which special syllabuses have been prescribed, following however the same general system.

All Secondary schools maintained or aided by the State or by public bodies or recognised by the University are managed by special Committees. In the case of Government High schools, these Committees work under the presidentship of the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer, according as the school is situated at the headquarters of a district or of a subdivision. The Inspector of Schools is Vice-President and the Head Master, Secretary. In the case of schools of lower grade also, an endeavour is made to enlist local interest by placing them under a Committee on which the various classes of the community are represented.

Primary education.

409. Primary schools are classed as Lower and Upper Primary, according, as the course of studies extends to five or to six years. The main object of the Primary schools is to provide the masses with an elementary knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic. In addition some geography is taught, and an endeavour is made to train the pupils in hand and eye and to impart to them some simple facts in connection with such subjects as agriculture, sanitation, hygiene and the system of administration. The course of study, which is somewhat elaborate, has been designed with a view to teaching the pupils to think for themselves, to training their powers of observation, and to imparting practical knowledge that will be of use to them in their every-day life. The syllabus has only recently been introduced, and in its more modern aspects will rather record an aspiration than, in any full measure, indicate performance until the quality of the teachers has been improved.

The number of Lower Primary schools for boys at the end of the year was 3,395. There were also 234 Lower Primary Girls' schools. The pupils numbered 128,345 boys and 16,309 girls. Over 2,800 of these schools were under Board or Municipal control, 50 were State schools and the remainder aided or unaided private schools. As indicating the value of the figures of attendance which are adduced it may be mentioned that 60 per cent. of the pupils are returned as "Not reading printed books," that is, as being still in the alphabetical stage of instruction. The mass of the pupils leave school illiterate.

There were in addition 74 Upper Primary schools for boys and 8 for girls with 3,806 boys and 527 girls in attendance. Fifteen of the 82 schools were under local bodies, 2 were State schools, 58 aided and 7 unaided private schools.

Fees and scholarships.

410. Education is free in Local Board or Government Lower Primary schools; in Upper Primary and Middle Vernacular schools fees range from about 4 to 10 annas a month; in Middle English schools they are a little higher; in High schools the charges ordinarily rise from Re. 1 in class III to Rs. 3 in the Matriculation class. Collegiate fees are also very low, the minimum being Rs. 4 and the maximum Rs. 5 per month. In addition ample provision is made for free studentships in schools and colleges, and there is a graduated system of scholarships by means of which a poor and deserving student may take his way from the village *pathsala* to the M. A. degree of the University. Special concessions in the way of scholarships and free studentships are made to Muhammadans, hill people and other backward sections of the community.

411. High schools are for the most part housed in substantial buildings. But these are, generally speaking, proving quite inadequate to the increased demand for accommodation. The same is true of hostel buildings. Middle schools as a rule are less respectably housed. Primary schools in Assam in having a house of their own may be regarded as well off. A few have more or less permanent buildings, but the great majority occupy flimsy structures, which are not kept in good repair by the villagers. Accommodation.

412. There is only one High school for girls in the Province, *viz.*, the Mission school for Khasi Christian girls in Shillong. The *purdah* and the system of early marriage prevent orthodox Hindus and Muhammadans from keeping their daughters long at school. There are however 9 schools which teach up to the Middle standard—three are Middle English. For the rest female education is confined to elementary work in Primary schools and, in a greater measure even than in the case of boys' schools, to the alphabetical stage of instruction—over 70 per cent. being returned as "Not reading printed books." Female education.

The Zenana system of instruction has not taken root in Assam. An experiment of this kind is, however, at present in progress in the town of Sylhet.

413. There are three Government Training Schools which train teachers for service in Middle and Upper Primary schools, one at Jorhat, one at Silchar, and the third at Shillong. The first two institutions train teachers for Lower Primary schools also. In addition there are Government Training Classes for Lower Primary school teachers at Jaiaw in the Khasi Hills and Tura in the Garo Hills, and two Mission classes aided by Government in the Naga Hills. A small number of Secondary school teachers and of inspecting officers are sent annually for training to the Government College at Dacca. There is no training school for women teachers. Training of teachers.

414. There is no College of Law or Medicine in Assam, but a Law class is held at Gauhati, which prepares students for the Pleadership Examination of the Calcutta High Court, and a Medical school is maintained by Government at Dibrugarh. This teaches up to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon's standard and serves a useful purpose in providing subordinate medical officers for the tea gardens and for Government service. There are no Engineering or Technical schools in the Province. But a number of students are awarded scholarships to enable them to read in the Engineering and Apprentice Departments of the Civil Engineering College at Sibpur and in the Ahsanullah School of Engineering at Dacca. There are two Industrial schools under State control, one at Shillong and the other at Kohima. They purport to train carpenters and blacksmiths. A number of stipends are granted each year to boys entering the Railway workshops at Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Tezpur for training as mechanics. Professional and Technical education.

415. There are two schools for the education of the domiciled community—Pine Mount School and the Loreto Convent, both at Shillong. Pine Mount School is a Government institution; at the present date its pupils are all in the elementary stage of instruction. The Loreto Convent aims at preparing pupils for the Junior Examination of the Cambridge University Board. Both are girls' schools, but take in little boys up to the age of ten. Older boys have at present to go outside the Province for their education. European education.

416. There is a considerable but declining number of private institutions following special courses of instruction on Oriental lines, *e.g.*, *Tols*, *Koran* schools, *Maktabs* and *Madrassas*. Indigenous systems.

In *Tols* or Sanskrit schools Brahmins are taught the elements of the various recognised departments of Sanskrit knowledge with a view to qualifying them to serve the Hindu community in capacities proper to their caste, *e.g.*, as *Pandits*, *Purahits*, *Jyotishes* and *Kabirajes*.

For the Muhammadan community a similar service is performed by *Madrassas*. The *Madrassa* is led up to by the *Maktab* and the *Maktab* by the *Koran* school. The *Koran* school finds its proper place in the premises of the *Masjid* where the *Imam* instructs the children of the congregation in the reading and the recitation of the *Koran* and the performance of their prayers; the *Maktab* carries the child's education on to the elements of the Islamic languages; and the *Madrassa* is designed to develop Islamic education to a stage at which its pupils are qualified to fulfil professional functions, *e.g.*, as *Maulvis* and *Kazis*.

These institutions are encouraged by the State by a system of examinations and rewards. An attempt is made to persuade *Tols* and *Madrassas* to temper their orthodoxy and improve their usefulness by admitting to their courses the elements of ordinary secular instruction in the vernacular.

SECTION 2.—Education.

[*See* General Report on Public Instruction in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1911-1912, and Statistics of British India, Part VII.]

General.

417. The total expenditure on public instruction rose from Rs. 13,34,580 in 1910-11 to Rs. 16,09,062 in the year under report. The main burden of the increase fell on provincial revenues, but there was a considerable increase also in Local Board expenditure, in fee receipts and in subscriptions. The increased expenditure was accompanied by an advance all along the line. The number of pupils in attendance rose from 168,250 to 182,112, an increase of over 8 per cent. in a single year. It is gratifying to note that the increase was particularly marked in the Muhammadan community, the number of Muhammadan pupils having increased by nearly 11 per cent. Progress in female education, also, was particularly rapid, the returns showing an increase of fully 17 per cent. on the attendance of the previous year.

Collegiate education.

418. The percentage of male pupils to the male population of school-going age was 30·4 against 28·15 in the previous year and of female pupils 3·6 against 3·19.

The number of students in the two Assam Colleges rose from 230 to 295. With the provincialization of the Murarichand College, which took place at the beginning of the current year, and the initiation of considerable schemes for the improvement of both colleges, it may be expected that this rate of increase will be more than maintained and that Assam will soon be educating within its own borders a sufficient number of University students to render it independent of the neighbouring provinces for its supply of men qualified for the liberal professions and the administrative service of the State.

Secondary education.

419. The growing popularity of the hostel system is evidenced by an increase in the number of students in residence from 122 to 138.

The number of High schools was 28 against 27 in the previous year, the increase being due to the raising of the status of the Khasi Girls' School in Shillong. The number of pupils rose from 8,236 to 8,924—an increase which would have been more marked had the accommodation of the schools permitted. The number presented for matriculation rose from 355 to 394 and the percentage of success was 66·5 against 66·6 in the previous year.

Owing to the very unsatisfactory condition of its management and discipline the aided High School at Habiganj has been taken temporarily under Government control.

The increase in the demand for English education is more particularly manifested in the returns for Middle English schools which increased in number from 85 with an attendance of 9,098 to 95 with an attendance of 10,922.

Middle Vernacular education did not share in the general progress. The number of pupils in attendance in Middle Vernacular schools was 2,753, or only 28 in excess of the previous year. The unpopularity of vernacular institutions beyond the Lower Primary stage is not to be wondered at. The course leads nowhere except to the poorly paid occupation of vernacular teaching and the rules are so framed as to discourage village schools from attempting instruction beyond the Lower Primary stage. An endeavour will be made to place Middle Vernacular instruction on a more favourable footing.

Primary education.

420. An increase in the number of Primary schools for boys from 3,436 to 3,469 and of pupils from 130,306 to 141,748 was accompanied by a rise in expenditure from Rs. 5,13,180 to Rs. 5,27,263. It is hoped that the subsidies which are now being given from Imperial Revenues for the advance of popular education will bring about shortly a larger increase in the number both of schools and pupils, and will allow at the same time of a considerable improvement in the very unsatisfactory rates of pay allowed to vernacular teachers.

Institutions for training of teachers.

421. The system of training remained unchanged. There were 3 Normal school and 6 Elementary training schools. The number of pupils in the training schools and classes was 402 against 361 in the previous year and the returns of trained teachers show an increase from 1,756 to 2,015.

There is no institution in Assam for the training of female teachers.

Law Class.

422. The number of Law students fell from 70 to 14 owing to the abolition of the law classes at Sibsagar, Silchar and Sylhet. The expenditure was Rs. 340 against Rs. 4,406 in the previous year.

423. The number of pupils in the Berry-White Medical School was 108 against 102 in the previous year. The number of Muhammadans increased from 13 to 16 and of hill-men from 7 to 10. Of the Hindu and Muhammadan pupils, 51 against 39 in the previous year were from the Assam Valley and 47 against 53 from the Surma Valley. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 24,047 to Rs. 24,745. Medical school.

424. There is little to be said in regard to Technical and Industrial education except that it will progress when, but not before, there is an industrial awakening in the Province. Effort is at present confined to a couple of schools teaching blacksmithy and carpentry at Kohima and Shillong. Technical and Industrial schools.

425. The general advance of secular education is accompanied by a decline in the number of Sanskrit institutions. The knowledge of Sanskrit is losing in public estimation. Patronage is not what it was and *tols* are being closed for lack of support. The number decreased during the year under report from 75 to 54 and the number of pupils from 1,644 to 1,237. The standard of Sanskrit learning is also on the wane. Tols.

426. Madrassa education remains popular with the more orthodox Muhammadans, and the year saw an increase in the number of pupils and institutions. This is matter for congratulation only in so far as it betokens a growing interest in education. It would be to the advantage of the community if the interest were diverted to more fruitful fields. The standard of instruction in Madrassas is low, and the education imparted of little or no advantage except to the small percentage of the pupils who pursue the course to its close in the hope of securing positions as maulvis, etc. The establishment of a Government Madrassa at Sylhet will, it is hoped, provide satisfactorily for the maintenance of Islamic learning, and permit of the conversion of a large number of the existing Madrassas into more efficient and more useful institutions. Madrassas Muhammadan orthodoxy.

427. As already noted, there was a satisfactory advance in female education. The number of girls' schools increased from 230 with 6,998 pupils in attendance to 252 with 8,203. The total number of women and girls including those in boys' schools was 17,931 against 15,799 of previous year. The increase disclosed is rapid if considered with reference to the figures of the previous year. With reference to the population of the Province it is slow, and will continue to be slow, until there is a sensible change in the attitude of the community to the seclusion and early marriage of females. The people of the hills are more liberal in this respect than the people of the plains, and in female education the Khasis lead the way. Female education.

428. The state of affairs with regard to European education remained unchanged and calls for no comment. European education.

429. The number of Muhammadan pupils in colleges was 27 against 30 in the previous year. This can only be a temporary set-back, as the number of Muhammadan pupils is increasing rapidly in all classes of schools. In particular, there is a very marked increase in the enrolment in Middle English schools—a most hopeful sign—as it indicates the probability of a similarly rapid increase in due course in High schools and colleges. The number of Muhammadan pupils in the various classes of recognised institutions and the rate of increase may be seen at a glance from the summary below :— Muhammadan education.

—	1910-11.	1911-12.	Percentage of increase.
1	2	3	4
High English schools	1,614	1,702	5·5
Middle English schools	1,789	2,307	29
Middle Vernacular schools	470	495	5·3
Primary schools	30,855	34,014	10·2

430. Progress in the education of most of the hill peoples and of the backward classes in the plains was maintained. Certain of the lower Hindu castes, *e.g.*, the Jogis and the Namasudras, are awaking to the advantages of education, but facilities are seldom present to enable muffassil pupils to take advantages of the education offered in High schools. Backward classes.

INSTRUCTION.

The scheme for the education of the children of tea-garden coolies is not making the progress which was expected.

Discipline.

431. The conduct of pupils in schools and colleges was not on the whole unsatisfactory. But there were a number of grave offences against decency, and the buildings of one High school were set on fire and destroyed—it is believed by some of its own pupils.

Some hope of improved conditions in this regard is to be found in the growing popularity of the hostel system.

SECTION 3.—Literature and the Press.

[*See* Statistics of British India, Part VII, Educational.]

Publications registered.

432. Thirty-seven publications were received and registered in 1911. This compares unfavourably with the numbers recorded in the two preceding years, *viz.*, 62 and 60. Not a single book was submitted under any of the heads—Drama, History, Law, Fiction, Philosophy or Science. Of the books registered, 17 or nearly half of the total are on religious subjects. Sixteen of the 37 are Assamese, 6 Khasi and only 1 Bengali. Both in the number and in the nature of the publications registered the returns bear witness to the general backwardness of the Province. The most striking disclosure is the literary poverty of Bengali in the Surma Valley.

Newspapers.

433. Three English, one Anglo-Vernacular, and twelve Vernacular newspapers were published during the year. With an exception here and there the tone of the press is unobjectionable. None of the local newspapers carry much weight.

SECTION 4.—Scientific and Literary Societies.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—Arts and Sciences.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

434. No new monuments were declared to be protected during the year under review, and expenditure on Archæological objects was confined to the up-keep of monuments already protected, and borne on the books of the Public Works Department.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

Bishop of Calcutta and Archdeacon of Calcutta, 1814.

435. The Province of Assam lies within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Bishop of Calcutta. By the Statute 53, Geo. III, Chapter 155, provision was made for the appointment of a single Bishop for the whole of India, and the Sovereign was empowered to grant to the Bishop such ecclesiastical jurisdiction and the exercise of such episcopal functions as His Majesty might think necessary for the administration of holy ceremonies and for the superintendence and good government of the Ministers of the Church establishment. Under the authority of this statute, letters patent for the Bishopric of Calcutta were issued under the date of the 2nd of May 1814, establishing the See of Calcutta, subordinate to the Archiepiscopal See of the Province of Canterbury, and constituting the Archdeaconry of Calcutta. The Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta and the Members of the Council were appointed the King's Commissioners delegate to hear appeals from the decisions of the Bishop and his Commissaries.

Bishop of Calcutta Metropolitan, 1835.

436. The Statutes 3 and 4, Will. IV, Chapter 85, empowered the Sovereign to found and constitute the Bishoprics of Madras and Bombay, and constituted the Bishop of Calcutta Metropolitan. In 1835, the Bishoprics of Madras and Bombay were accordingly constituted by Letters Patent, leaving the Metropolitan jurisdiction with the Bishop of Calcutta.

Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1782.

437. Under the Indian Christian Marriage Act of 1872, the Local Administration has power to give licenses to ministers of religion to solemnize marriages, to appoint marriage registrars, and to license persons to grant certificates of marriage between Christians, but in other respects it exercises no ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

SECTION 2.—Ecclesiastical.

438. The Ecclesiastical establishment of the Province, paid entirely or in part by this Administration, consisted of the Chaplains at Shillong, Silchar, Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The incomes of the Chaplains at the four last mentioned stations are supplemented by grants from the Additional Clergy Society, the Calcutta Diocesan Additional Clergy Society, the Society for the propagation of the Gospel, and from funds raised by private subscription.

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

439. The total value of stationery supplied to this Province in 1911-12 was Rs. 72,208, including Rs. 10,837, the value of articles supplied to the Secretariat Press at Shillong.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

440. The main Press under the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam was located at Shillong till December 1911, when it was transferred to Dacca, a branch Press being maintained at Shillong. The territorial changes which came into force on 1st April 1912 have necessitated the breaking up of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Press at Dacca, and the re-establishment of the Assam Secretariat Press at Shillong.

The cash receipts of the Secretariat Press at Shillong amounted to Rs. 5,204 against Rs. 6,989 in the previous year and the total expenditure to Rs. 1,26,951. The value of the outturn exceeded the actual amount paid to the workmen by Rs. 3,109.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Assam, for the year 1911-1912.]

441. The salient feature of the year is the remarkable increase in the attacks of rinderpest; out of some 48,000 cases of death reported from contagious diseases amongst cattle during the year, nearly half the number were due to rinderpest. The inoculation work carried out by the Veterinary Assistants showed a very considerable increase and the utility of this work can be judged from the fact that of 33,052 cattle inoculated in villages in which outbreaks of rinderpest occurred, only 881 died of the disease, while 7,276 deaths were reported amongst uninoculated animals. In all, 34,942 animals were inoculated against contagious diseases.

Veterinary dispensary.

442. The Veterinary dispensary at Shillong has been completed and the construction of a dispensary at Silchar taken in hand. The Chief Commissioner has, since the close of the year, sanctioned the construction of a laboratory and hospital at Gauhati.

Breeding operations.

443. Little has been done as yet in connection with cattle breeding: only five districts keep stud bulls. The cattle herd at the Shillong Farm has proved successful and there is a considerable demand for bulls amongst the Khasis. A scheme for the improvement of the breed of cattle is under consideration.

Sheep-breeding operations in the Khasi Hills are still in a rudimentary stage, but the superiority of the cross-bred offspring of Dumba rams is already apparent.

General.

444. The sanctioned staff of Veterinary Assistants for the Province consists of 49 officers. Of this number, only 24 were actually employed during the past year, as Local Boards have in not a few cases been unable or unwilling to provide a second assistant. Since the close of the year some additions have been made to the district staff and it has been decided that steps shall be taken to bring it up to full strength with an adequate reserve staff, and that the necessity for entertaining two assistants for each Board should be impressed on the Local Boards.

A scheme providing for an efficient system of reporting outbreaks of cattle-disease and of communicating warnings to threatened areas is also under consideration.

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ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM, 1912-1913.

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SUMMARY.

PART I.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR

1912-13.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

Tours.

The Chief Commissioner left Shillong on the 18th June 1912, and halted for four days at Gauhati. In an address presented by the Municipality and Local Board stress was laid on the need for the improvement of the Gauhati water-works and dispensary and of the communications of the district. The Assam Association asked for the adoption of measures to meet the recrudescence of *kala-azar*, the improvement of the Cotton College, and the provincialisation of all High schools. From Gauhati the Chief Commissioner visited Goalpara and Dhubri. The inhabitants of the Goalpara subdivision asked, amongst other things, for the provincialisation of the Goalpara High School, and the inhabitants of the Goalpara district raised the important question of the rights and interests of the Zamindars of that district. The tour was then continued in the Surma Valley, and Karimganj, Silchar, Sylhet and Sunamganj were visited. Addresses were presented and replied to at each town, some of the subjects dealt with being the improvement of the Public Works Department staff at Karimganj, the provision of water-works at Silchar, the completion of the Branch Railway line and the provision of drainage and water-works at Sylhet and the need for more adequate municipal arrangements at Sunamganj. The landholders of Sylhet also asked for the establishment of a model farm, and for the provision of grazing grounds. An accident to the steamer "Brahmakund" necessitated the temporary abandonment of the tour in the Upper Assam Valley, and a return was made to Shillong by the end of July. The tour was resumed in August and September, when Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Tezpur were visited. From Dibrugarh an interesting excursion was made to the coal fields of Margherita and the oil-wells at Digboi. The opium question, female education, erosion by the Dibru river and the sanitary condition of the town were some of the matters discussed in addresses presented at Dibrugarh, and the local requirements in the matters of water-supply, sanitation and education were laid before the Chief Commissioner at Jorhat and Tezpur. In November Sir Archdale Earle toured on the North-East Frontier, visiting Kobo, Pasighat, Nizamghat, Bomjur, Sadiya and Digaru, and investigating on the spot the requirements of this tract of country under the more complete system of administration which had recently been introduced. A second cold-weather tour was made in January and February 1913. The opportunity was taken of meeting large numbers of the planting community at the Dibrugarh meet, and Nowgong, Haflong, Habiganj, Maulvi Bazar and Silchar were also visited. Addresses at Nowgong invited the Chief Commissioner's attention to the recrudescence of *kala-azar*, and the need for railway communications and improved educational facilities. Light railway schemes were also advocated at Habiganj and Maulvi Bazar, and stress was laid at Habiganj on the

importance of restoring the village system of government. In March the Chief Commissioner visited the Eastern Duars in Goalpara, received an address from the local Meches, and made enquiries as regards the means of communication in that part of the province. All the subjects referred to in the various addresses received during the year have been systematically dealt with by the Chief Commissioner, and great progress has already been made in respect of a large number of the schemes initiated.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the Administration.

2. From the 1st April 1912 Assam was reconstituted as a separate province, with Sir Archdale Earle, K.C.I.E., as Chief Commissioner. It was recognised that the province, if it was to be developed as proposed, could not be administered by the meagre staff of officers allowed in pre-partition days. The number of Secretaries to Government were accordingly increased from two to three, the number of Heads of Departments augmented, and, generally, throughout the Administration, the staff was expanded. The rapid development of the province, which has taken place, has fully justified the wisdom of these measures.

A Legislative Council for Assam was created in November 1912, and, though no legislative measures have as yet been brought forward, much useful administrative work has been done.

A feature of the year was the formation of the North-Eastern Frontier Tract, to include the Abor and Mishmi countries, as well as the tracts inhabited by the Akas, Daflas and Miris. During the year two expeditions were organised, the one to deal with the Mishmi, and the other with the Abor country. In the former much progress in road-making was made, while the necessary survey work was completed. In the latter all necessary survey work has been finished, while the identity of the Sanpo with the Brahmaputra river has been established.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Manipur.

3. The year was not a prosperous one in Manipur. The scarcity in the south-western hills increased somewhat in severity, the crops being again destroyed by the ravages of rats. Elsewhere the rice crop suffered to some extent from excessive rainfall and considerable areas remained uncultivated owing to an epidemic of rinderpest among the plough cattle.

The gross revenue of the State fell from Rs. 5,18,626 in the previous year to Rs. 5,08,133, the main decrease being under the head "Export taxes on rice, cattle, etc."

The total expenditure rose from Rs. 5,46,795 to Rs. 6,22,731, the increase being due to the construction of the Imphal water-works and to expenditure in relieving scarcity.

A widespread agitation against the system of unpaid State labour occurred towards the close of the year. The Chief Commissioner has recently sanctioned the abolition of the system.

The Manipur Company, Limited, was wound up during the year, but its silk venture is being continued by the Durbar.

Frontier tribes.

4. Important measures were introduced to secure the more effective control of the North-East Frontier. A separate district under the control of a Political Officer, working directly under the Chief Commissioner, was formed on the frontier east of the Subansiri-Siyom divide, and the appointment was sanctioned of a Political Officer to have charge of the section of the frontier west of that divide. Survey operations and road construction on an extensive scale were undertaken.

The Abors gave no trouble during the year. A trade post was established at Pasighat and another in the neighbourhood of Rotung. This latter post is of great importance, as it will bring the hill tribes into direct communication with the plains. Up to the current year the tribes of the hinterland have been prevented by intervening tribes from visiting the plains. The way to the plains is now open to all. In addition, Military Police outposts have been established at Kobo, Pasighat and Balek. The survey operations in the Abor country, begun in the previous year, were continued by a survey party escorted by a force of Military Police and accompanied by the Political Officer.

Survey operations were also brought to a conclusion and some road construction effected in the Mishmi country.

The peace of the Naga Hills frontier was broken by an outrage committed on certain British subjects by the trans-frontier village of Chinglong. A punitive column was attacked and suffered some loss, and it was considered necessary to despatch a second and stronger force, which inflicted summary punishment on the villages concerned.

All the villages in the area recently annexed to the Naga Hills were visited by the Deputy Commissioner, and a Military Police post was established at Wakching.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the people.

5. The year was, on the whole, favourable to agriculture. Bumper crops were reaped in Sylhet and Cachar, and the winter rice crop was normal or above the normal throughout the greater part of the Assam Valley.

The condition of the cultivating and labouring classes was good in all the plains districts except Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, agriculturists having been adversely affected by the floods of July 1912 in the former district and by a severe outbreak of cattle-disease in the latter. The situation in the Lushai Hills, which have been passing through a period of scarcity, showed some improvement.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Realisation of the revenue.

6. There was an increase of 67·8 square miles in the revenue-paying area which gave a corresponding increase of Rs. 1,51,185 in revenue. The incidence of revenue per square mile rose from Rs. 571·98 to Rs. 581·18. The percentage of current collections on current demand was 96·05. It was found necessary to have freer recourse to all forms of coercive measures during the year. The actual sales of moveables and immoveables rose from 246 and 524 to 276 and 602, respectively. The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue rose from Rs. 6,35,815 to Rs. 6,75,312. 97·61 per cent. of the demand was realized.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and Settlements.

7. The office of the Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam, was removed from Shillong to Calcutta during the year, and a proposal, which has since been sanctioned, was submitted to the Government of India for the appointment of a Second Assistant Director of Surveys with headquarters at Shillong. A skeleton survey of 22 tea grants was made in the Lakhimpur district, and the traverse of extension survey areas and the relaying of boundaries were undertaken in several districts. 48,564 copies of maps were printed in the Shillong Drawing Office for Assam.

The preliminary report on the re-settlement of Dibrugarh town was received during the year, but careful enquiries into objections delayed the accord of sanction to the classification of sites and the rates of assessment till September 1913. Orders were issued during the year for the regular survey and re-settlement of the Guma Duar in Goalpara. Proceedings for the re-settlement of the Cachar district were instituted during the year. The most important event of the year was the decision arrived at, with the approval of the Government of India, to undertake experimental operations for a record-of-rights in a compact area consisting of three parganas of the Sylhet district, with a view to the subsequent formation of a complete record-of-rights for the district. This is a question which for many years had been the subject of discussion, and it is satisfactory that at last some practical step has been taken.

LAND RECORDS.

Land Records.

8. There was no change in the constitution of the Land Records Staff, but considerable progress was made in respect of the accepted policy of substituting resident for non-resident mandals.

SETTLEMENT FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlement for special cultivation.

9. The area settled for special cultivation increased during the year by 2,212 acres and the revenue by Rs. 36,641. The increase in revenue was largely due to the re-settlement at enhanced rates of expired 30-year grants.

WARDS' ESTATES.

Wards' estates.

10. The management of four new estates in Sylhet was undertaken by the Court of Wards during the year, and the number of estates now under the Court is nine. The revised system of management under a General Manager, which was introduced in the middle of 1911-1912, led to some increase in the expenditure, but was amply justified by a marked improvement in collections and in the general efficiency of management.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

11. The year was generally a prosperous one for the cultivating and labouring classes. Prices both of food grains and of labour ruled high in spite of exceptionally good crops.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Legislation.

12. A Legislative Council was created for Assam in November 1912. No legislation was undertaken during the year, but much useful work was done, all schemes of importance for the improvement of the province, of which there were many, being considered by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. Moreover, a considerable amount of work was informally transacted between members of the Council and the Administration.

POLICE.

Military Police.

13. The Silchar and Tura detachments of the Dacca Battalion were taken over by the Assam Administration in November 1912. The Government of India have sanctioned the formation of a new Battalion for the North-East Frontier, and proposals have been submitted for the re-organisation of the whole Military Police Force of the province into four uniform Battalions.

The discipline and efficiency of the force were satisfactory and there was a marked improvement in its health.

The Dehong and Debong survey operations and the construction of the Lohit Valley road operations necessitated the employment on the frontier, for prolonged periods, of the whole of the Lakhimpur Battalion and detachments of the Naga Hills and Lushai Hills Battalions. A force of Military Police also operated in a punitive expedition on the Naga Hills frontier and subsequently took part with the $\frac{1}{8}$th Gurkhas in further punitive operations on the same frontier.

Civil Police.

14. Further progress was made in the re-organisation of the Subordinate Police. The discipline and efficiency of the armed reserve were far from satisfactory. With a view to the improvement of this body the principle of separate recruitment has been sanctioned. The ordinary reserve was below the sanctioned strength in most districts, but steps are being taken to remedy this defect. Proposals have been submitted to the Government of India since the close of the year for an increase in the pay of constables and head constables in both branches of the Civil Police, the present rates of pay having proved to be unattractive. The work of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors generally was unsatisfactory. The number of criminal charges against the police rose from 56 in 1911 to 85 in 1912, but convictions fell from 20 to 19.

The appointment of villagers as special constables to patrol the railway line had a most salutary effect in reducing the number of cases of stone-throwing at trains.

The Government of India have been asked to sanction a combined training college for cadets and constables.

The total cost of the Department increased by Rs. 1,21,046.

There was an increase of over 1,000 in the cases of cognizable crime reported. The increase was most marked in the case of burglaries and theft in Lakhimpur and Sibsagar and in the case of rioting in Sylhet. Forty-eight per cent. of the cases investigated were sent up for trial, and 79 per cent. of the cases sent up for trial by the police ended in conviction. The percentage of convictions in Sessions cases rose from 74 in 1911 to 81 in 1912.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

15. The Judicial staff employed was increased during the year by six stipendiary Magistrates and one Honorary Magistrate. The number of offences reported rose from 35,983 in 1911 to 39,174 in 1912, and the number of cases dealt with by the Courts from 21,259 to 22,916. Forty-four per cent. of the accused in cases tried by Magistrates were convicted. Four hundred and eighty-six persons were tried in the Sessions Courts; 346 were convicted, 132 discharged or acquitted, and the cases of 8 were referred to the High Court. The number of witnesses examined by Magistrates increased by 5,497, and of those examined in the Sessions Courts by 316. Sentences of death were passed in 8 cases, and were confirmed by the High Court in all but one, which was pending at the close of the year. On appeal the sentences of subordinate Courts were confirmed in 81 per cent. of the cases by the High Court, in 68 per cent. by the Courts of Sessions, and in 66 in District Magistrates' Courts. Plains districts.

The charges incurred by the Criminal Courts amounted to Rs. 3,42,879 and the receipts to Rs. 1,96,104.

1,419 cases were brought to trial in the hill districts and frontier tracts. 2,022 persons were accused, and 1,696 convicted. Hill districts and frontier tracts.

JAILS.

16. A reduction of the average daily jail population from 1,987 to 1,823 was attended by a marked improvement in the health of prisoners. There is, however, much room for further improvement, and this will doubtless follow from the close attention which is being paid to the health of the prisoners and to the provision of better accommodation. The nett cost per head of average strength showed a further rise of Rs. 26, owing to increased expenditure on maintenance and diminished receipts from the manufacturing department. Jails.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

17. The Civil Judicial staff of the province consisted of two District Judges, one Additional District Judge and 29 Munsifs. The number of original suits instituted rose from 34,679 in 1911 to 38,730 in 1912. The average duration of contested suits under the ordinary procedure showed a considerable improvement, but there was an increase in the duration of uncontested and Small Cause Court suits. There were 24,521 applications for execution proceedings, and 3,425 miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature. In appellate cases 75·2 per cent. of the decisions were confirmed by the High Court, and 75·8 per cent. by other Appellate Courts. Plains districts.

Receipts from Civil Courts amounted to Rs. 6,27,393 and expenditure to Rs. 2,86,408.

During the year the Chief Commissioner took special pains to see that civil court work was satisfactorily and expeditiously disposed of by a proper distribution of work among the administrative staff. He has recently, in furtherance of the same object, proposed to the Government of India the appointment of a Sub-Judge and Assistant Judge for the Assam Valley.

1,347 suits were decided in the hill districts and frontier tracts. Hill districts and frontier tracts.

REGISTRATION.

18. Registrations increased from 71,192 to 74,239. Receipts rose from Rs. 89,199 to Rs. 91,015, whilst expenditure decreased from Rs. 56,738 to Rs. 55,943. A separate cadre of Sub-Registrars was formed for the new province of Assam during the year. Registration.

The number of ceremonies registered by Muhammadan Marriage Registrars decreased by 161.

Seven new companies were registered under the Indian Companies Act. It is satisfactory to find that the propagation of mushroom insurance companies has been checked by the recent legislation.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Municipalities.

19. The incidence of municipal taxation per head of population and the local income of municipalities increased during the year, but owing to a reduction in the aggregate of Government grants, which had been abnormally large in the previous year, the total income of these bodies showed a decrease. Good progress was made with the Jorhat water-supply scheme, and a number of schemes for water-supply and drainage of other towns were initiated during the year. The appointment of a Sanitary Engineer since the close of the year is expected to result in these and similar schemes being expedited. An increase in the number of the meetings held and an improvement in the attendance thereat indicate some growth of interest in municipal affairs. Three new municipalities have been formed since the close of the year and proposals for extending some form of Municipal Government to small towns in rural areas are under consideration. Legislation with the object of bringing on to the Statute Book an Act specially suited to the conditions of the province as regards municipal administration received much attention during the year.

Local Boards.

20. Owing mainly to the Imperial grants for education and special allotments for communications and water supply which the Chief Commissioner was able to place at their disposal, there was an expansion by over seven lakhs in the income of Local Boards. Education continued to receive particular attention, 24·80 per cent. of the total income of the Boards having been devoted to this object. The number of dispensaries increased only by one during the year. Boards are in most cases spending as much as they can afford on medical relief, and several applications for assistance from provincial funds are under consideration. The Local Administration has under contemplation the opening of a large number of itinerary dispensaries. This scheme will supplement the activities of the Boards in regard to medical relief. An experiment was made in the direction of the sanitary improvement of rural areas by allotting small sums to selected villages. It met with a considerable measure of success and is being repeated on a larger scale during the current year. This experiment has been made not only with the object of making a beginning in the direction of village sanitary improvement, but also in order to pave the way to the large measure of village Local Self-Government which the Administration contemplates in the future.

As the result of a conference held in May 1912 a grant of 15 lakhs was sanctioned by the Administration for the improvement by Local Boards of communications during a period of three years. Of this sum Rs. 5,73,550 were placed at the disposal of the Boards during 1912-13. The expenditure by Local Boards on public works was, in consequence of the special allotment referred to above, nearly four and a half lakhs greater than in 1911-12. A beginning was thus made of the extensive scheme of improvement of communications which the Administration has in view. Since the close of the year an additional grant of 10 lakhs, to be spent during the remaining two years of the triennium for the same purpose, has been sanctioned as the result of a second conference held in June 1913.

A draft Local Self-Government Bill has been framed and will, it is hoped, become law in the near future. The Bill will effect an enormous improvement in the position of the Local Boards in regard to communications, and also make provision for a gradual but extensive system of village Self-Government.

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

21. There was a decrease in the number of the rank and file in both Volunteer Corps of the province as compared with the previous year. The Chief Commissioner is doing his best to stimulate interest in volunteering, and it is hoped that the current year will see a marked improvement.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

22. An agricultural supervisor and two probationary district agricultural officers were appointed from the 1st June 1913, and an agricultural chemist has since been appointed and has now joined his post. Interesting and valuable results were obtained during the year with special reference to sugarcane from experiments at the Jorhat Agricultural Station. A most promising start was made with a new experimental Fruit Farm at Shillong. A site was selected during the year for an Agricultural Station near Karimganj in the Surma Valley, and it is hoped that the Station will very shortly be at work and will enable practical experiments to be carried out with special reference to rice and jute.

Demonstrations were made in various districts in the use of bone meal and flour phosphate as manures, the superiority of improved varieties of sugarcane, the use of iron roller sugar-crushing mills, and the spraying with Bordeaux mixture as a preventive of the potato disease. Rai Bhupal Chandra Basu Bahadur has been placed on special duty to enquire into the conditions of the silk industry.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Societies.

23. The principal features of the year were the formation of banking and controlling unions, and the subdivision of the societies in the Assam Valley which had been constituted on a *mauza* basis into village societies. The total number of societies rose from 142 to 188, the number of members from 9,758 to 10,945, and the working capital from Rs. 4,91,411 to Rs. 5,56,098. All but four societies worked at a profit. The development of the co-operative movement demands more attention than, under the existing arrangements, can be given to it. Proposals are being formulated for the appointment of a new officer as Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Director of Industries.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and crops.

24. The rainfall of the year was above the normal and was not evenly distributed, but weather conditions on the whole were favourable to rice, the most important staple of the province; bumper crops were obtained in the Surma Valley, and good ones in most districts of the Assam Valley. The outturn of rice exceeded that of the previous year by about 50,000 tons. Prices however ruled high owing to the large demand for rice outside the province. Conditions were less suitable for jute, and a decreased outturn was reported in spite of an increase in the area under this crop.

FORESTS.

Forests.

25. There was an increase of 60 square miles in the total area of reserved forests and a decrease of 113 square miles in the area of unclassed State forests. Good progress was made in surveying the forests and in opening out forest communications. A nursery for *simul* seedlings was opened in the Lakhimpur district and steps have been taken to open nurseries in Cachar for both first-class and tea-box timber trees. With the object of encouraging the tea-box trade the royalty on timber used for tea-boxes was temporarily remitted. This action was successful in increasing the output, but serious difficulties attend its working and it has been provisionally decided to limit the concession to a period of two years. The gross revenue of the department was Rs. 11,33,228 against Rs. 11,17,569 in the previous year, the principal increases being in the receipts from the sale of timber removed by purchasers and from grazing fees. The expenditure fell from Rs. 8,32,158 to Rs. 8,15,671.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

To

26. The general condition of the industry during the year under report was flourishing. The weather was exceptionally favourable and good prices were obtained

The area under tea rose from 354,716 to 361,671 acres, and the year's crop from 179,053,017 lbs. to 198,798,283 lbs.

Mines. 27. Thirteen prospecting licenses and one mining lease were issued during the year. The royalty on coal and oil amounted to Rs. 64,204.

FACTORIES.

Factories. 28. At the close of 1912 there were 16 factories in existence, employing 2,901 operatives, of whom 164 were children. The sanitary arrangements were reported to be satisfactory, and the health of the operatives was good. Four accidents, none of which were fatal, occurred. No prosecutions were instituted under the Act.

TRADE.

Rail and River-borne trade. 29. The total value of the trade of Assam with other provinces during the year under report was 1,886 lakhs of rupees, of which 599 lakhs represent imports and 1,287 lakhs represent exports. The total volume of trade decreased by 398,436 maunds, whilst the value increased by Rs. 27,33,091. The demand for rice, jute and tea was greater and higher prices were obtained than in the previous year. About 75 per cent. of the total value of exports by rail and river represents the value of tea. Thirty-one per cent. of the tea exported went to Chittagong, as compared with 27 per cent. in the previous year. A decrease in the exports of mustard seed and in the imports of mustard oil indicate increased business in the oil mills of the province. Reduced importations of husked rice, and enormously increased exports of rice and paddy reflect the general excellence of the rice crops of the year in most districts of the province.

Frontier trade. 30. The aggregate value of trade registered was Rs. 26,89,124; four new temporary registering stations were opened during the year, namely, at Sadiya in the North-East Frontier Tract, at Kokalabari in the Kamrup district, and at Orang and Bchali in the Darrang district.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Public Works. 31. The total expenditure on Provincial Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department amounted to Rs. 37,26,316. Of this amount a sum of Rs. 5,20,066 was spent on original works in connection with provincial buildings and Rs. 1,64,184 on repairs. Under the head of communications the expenditure on original works and maintenance rose from Rs. 5,71,587 and Rs. 8,31,173 respectively in 1911-12 to Rs. 12,63,381 and Rs. 9,79,746 in 1912-13. These sums do not include the expenditure on works undertaken on behalf of Local Boards by the Public Works Department from the large special grants for communications placed by the Chief Commissioner at the disposal of the Boards.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross revenue. 32. The gross receipts, Imperial and Provincial figures included, rose from Rs. 1,58,63,677 in 1911-12 to Rs. 1,69,42,636, whilst the gross expenditure rose from Rs. 1,27,55,408 to Rs. 1,44,18,765.

Land revenue. 33. The total ordinary land revenue demand rose from Rs. 72,36,111 to Rs. 74,55,474. Collections amounted to Rs. 71,61,756 and remissions on account of local calamities to Rs. 10,150. Collections on account of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 6,59,180.

Salt. 34. There were two salt warehouses in the Sylhet district, at Balaganj and at Ajmiriganj. The latter was a new warehouse started during the year. The former has ceased to exist since the close of the year. Imports decreased by 20,369 maunds and nett revenue by Rs. 5,041. The wholesale price of salt remained at Rs. 2-4 per maund.

Excise. 35. The total revenue demand amounted to Rs. 47,62,593 against Rs. 44,50,807 in the preceding year. The raising of the distillery duty on country liquor from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3-2 per L. P. gallon and the enhancement in the four upper districts of the Assam Valley of the treasury price on opium from Rs. 40 to Rs. 42 per seer were largely responsible for the increase, which represents 7 per cent. on the revenue demand of the previous year. The consumption of country spirit and of opium

rose by 3·5 and 2·9 per cent respectively, whilst that of *ganja* showed a slight decline. The duty on *ganja* will be raised to Rs. 16 per seer with effect from the 1st April 1914, and a further enhancement of the treasury price of opium in the districts of heaviest consumption is contemplated. The samples of distillery country spirit which were sent for analysis were reported to be of excellent quality and free from any deleterious substance. Local opinion as to the location of excise shops was freely consulted.

Stamps. 36. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court Fees Acts rose from Rs. 11,85,941 to Rs. 12,80,991 during the year under report. Judicial stamps were responsible for two-thirds of the increase.

Income-tax 37. Income-tax receipts increased by 6·8 per cent. The final demand for the year was Rs. 3 27,957.

Provincial Finance. 38. The Provincial account opened with a balance of Rs. 41,96,000, including a sum of Rs. 9,13,000 on account of the share of Assam of the unspent balances of various Imperial assignments made to Eastern Bengal and Assam, for sanitation, education, and agriculture. The receipts and expenditure during the year were Rs. 1,75,67,244 and Rs. 1,40,22,560 respectively, the closing balance being Rs. 77,40,684. The budget estimates were exceeded on the receipt side by Rs. 53,87,000 and on the expenditure side by Rs. 18,30,000.

Local Funds. 39. The Local Funds of which accounts are submitted to Government started with an opening balance of Rs. 6,12,332 and ended the year with a closing balance of Rs. 8,50,103.

Local rates. 40. The total local rates demand rose from Rs. 8,57,498 to Rs. 8,74,022. Collections amounted to 90·63 per cent. of the demand.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital statistics. 41. The death-rate for the year rose from 23·61 to 25·04 per mille and the birth-rate from 31·84 per mille to 32·16. The ratio of mortality from fever remained high. On the whole the year was a healthy one, the excess of births over deaths being above the average for the preceding five years.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

Immigration. 42. The year was again a prosperous one for the tea industry, and there was a considerable increase in immigration. There was a decrease in the mortality of labourers both during transit and on the tea gardens.

Since the close of the year the Government of India have decided that the labour district provisions of Act VI of 1901 shall be withdrawn from the 1st July 1914, and that recruitment by contractors and their recruiters shall cease a year later. A Bill providing some remedy against the enticement of labour has been framed in consultation with representative employers of labour, and will, it is hoped, be introduced in the Legislative Council during the present session.

The relations between employers and employed in the tea districts were generally marked by good sense and good feeling.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable dispensaries. 43. The total number of dispensaries working at the close of the year was 205. Two travelling dispensaries, one in Kamrup and the other in Sylhet, were sanctioned. The total number of patients treated was 1,539,305 as against 1,416,555 in the preceding year. The increase of nearly 9 per cent. may fairly be attributed to the growing popularity of these institutions, as it was accompanied by a general improvement in the health of the population.

Lunatic asylums. 44. There were 186 male and 43 female lunatics in the Tezpur Asylum at the close of the year, 80 of these being criminal lunatics. The health of the inmates was not satisfactory, and considerable temporary additions have been made to the tubercular wards and the general accommodation in order to avoid overcrowding pending the reconstruction of the asylum, which has been administratively approved.

Sanitation.

45. The expenditure by municipal bodies on sanitation amounted to Rs. 2,84,513. A grant of Rs. 6,500 and a loan of Rs. 10,000 were made by Government to the Gauhati Municipality for the improvement of the Gauhati water-works, and grants of Rs. 28,244 and Rs. 22,961 were made to the Dhubri Municipality and the Golaghat Union respectively towards improved systems of water-supply for those towns. A water-supply scheme for Silchar Municipality was administratively sanctioned and a grant of Rs. 76,658 was made towards its execution; the detailed project is under preparation. A number of other schemes for water-supply and drainage in Municipal areas were initiated as the result of the Chief Commissioner's tours.

Local Boards spent Rs. 96,308 on sanitation, and received allotments aggregating Rs. 50,923 from the Sanitary Board for the improvement of the water-supply in rural areas. As a result of a conference held at Shillong in June 1913 a sum of Rs. 1,90,000 has been distributed by Government amongst the Local Boards for expenditure during the current year on water-supply, and all Boards have been required to submit five-year programmes for improving their water-supply. An experiment, which was made in attempting to interest the villagers in improving village sanitation by the distribution of small grants to be spent by themselves on this object, met with a considerable measure of success and is being repeated on a larger scale during the current year.

The enquiry into the nature and cause of *kala-azar* continued, and a scheme has been worked out by the Sanitary Commissioner for arresting the threatened recrudescence of the disease. A scheme has been administratively sanctioned for the enlargement of the Sylhet Leper Asylum, and the Chief Commissioner is at present considering the necessity of establishing a second Leper Asylum in the Assam Valley.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination.

46. During the year under review the number of operations performed was 333,363 against 305,845 in the preceding year. The increase occurred mainly in the Sylhet, Kamrup, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Cachar districts. The rate of mortality from small-pox was ·67 per mille against ·35 in the previous year. There was an increased prevalence of the disease in Kamrup and in Sylhet town.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Education.

47. Expenditure on education rose from Rs. 16,09,062 in 1911-12 to Rs. 19,03,954 in the year under review. The number of pupils in attendance increased from 182,112 to 194,288, or by 6·7 per cent. Students in Colleges rose from 295 to 360; in High schools from 8,924 to 10,337; in Middle English schools from 10,922 to 12,638; in Middle Vernacular schools from 2,753 to 2,796; and in boys' Primary schools from 141,748 to 148,278. The increase was most marked in the case of Middle English, and least marked in the case of Middle Vernacular schools.

Negotiations were entered into for the transfer of the majority of the aided High Schools to State control, and the transfer will in several cases take effect from the 1st January 1914. In the larger part of Assam, Government is in the position of the landlord, and the Chief Commissioner has, therefore, decided that Government must take a more active and liberal part in the organisation of education than it does in permanently-settled areas. The removal of the disabilities at present affecting vernacular education beyond the Lower Primary standard was under consideration during the year, and fees have since been abolished in Middle Vernacular and Upper Primary schools.

There was an increase in the enrolment both at Tols and at Madrassas during the year.

The number of schools for girls rose from 252 to 268, and the number of pupils from 17,931 to 19,085. The Mission Girls' School at Silchar was raised to the High school standard.

Considerable improvements were effected in the two European Girls' Schools at Shillong, and negotiations were in progress for the establishment of a Secondary European boys' School at Shillong and an elementary School for Europeans at Haflong.

There was an increase in the number of students in the Medical School at Dibrugarh and in the Law Class at Gauhati. Schemes for the establishment of a second Medical School at Sylhet and for a Law College at Gauhati are under consideration, and the latter project has received the approval of the Government of India.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature and the Press.

48. The number of publications received and catalogued was 44 against 37 in the preceding year.

Fourteen newspapers were published, their tone being generally unobjectionable.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

49. Three temples at Sibsagar, and one temple at Rangpur in the same district, were declared protected monuments under Act VII of 1904. Special repairs were undertaken by the Public Works Department to Ahom temples at Negriting and Jaisagar, and to the Kachari monuments at Dimapur. As a result of his visit to Tezpur in 1912, a strong local committee has been appointed to advise the Chief Commissioner as to what steps should be taken to procure the very interesting stone carvings which are to be found there, and the services of an officer of the Archæological Department have also been asked for to help the committee.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLAENOUS.

VETERINARY.

Veterinary.

50. There was a reduction in the mortality from cattle-disease in spite of a severe outbreak of rinderpest in the Dibrugarh subdivision. The number of cases treated by the itinerary staff for non-contagious diseases showed a large increase. Improved arrangements for reporting outbreaks of cattle-disease were introduced.

The staff, which was increased by one Inspector and five assistants during the year, still falls considerably short of the sanctioned cadre, and candidates to fill the vacancies are unfortunately not at present forthcoming. The Local Administration has agreed to assist certain of the Local Boards with a grant to cover the cost of maintenance of a second Veterinary Assistant, a minimum of two Veterinary Assistants to each Local Board having been fixed as required to meet the needs of the province.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

PART II.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

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D. S. Mallong R. S. No. 276 of 1914

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1912-1913.

PART II.—Report.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

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or—

SECTION 1.—Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.
SECTION 2.—Historical Summary.
SECTION 3.—Form of Administration.
SECTION 4.—Character of Land Tenures, System of Surveys and Settlements.
SECTION 5.—Civil Divisions of British Territory.
SECTION 6.—Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages

[See General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 1—75.]

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration.

Changes in the Administration.

1. After being for six and a half years included in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, Assam was, with effect from the 1st April 1912, reconstituted as a separate province, Sir Archdale Earle, K.C.I.E., being the first Chief Commissioner. It was recognised that in all branches of administration a larger staff of officers was required than had been employed before the formation of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Assam has now two Divisional Commissioners, and there are three Secretaries to the Chief Commissioner. The number of Heads of Departments has been increased. Police and Education form separate charges. The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals is in charge of Sanitation and Jails besides being the head of the Medical Department. One officer is in charge of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, and another of Excise, Registration and Co-operative Societies. The Public Works Department has a Superintending Engineer in addition to a Chief Engineer; and there are two Conservators of Forests. The cadres of all the services have been strengthened.

By a notification of the Government of India a Legislative Council for Assam was created in November 1912. The Council consists ordinarily of eleven members elected by the various communities in the province, and of thirteen nominated members, of whom not more than nine may be officials. Assam is represented on the Legislative Council of the Governor General by two members, one of whom is elected by the non-official members of the Assam Legislative Council, while the other is an official nominated by the Chief Commissioner.

The North-East Frontier Tract, over which the Assam Administration now exercises a measure of loose political control, has been formed into two sections, each in charge of a Political Officer. The formation of these frontier districts has not yet been formally notified, nor have their boundaries been accurately defined.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Feudatory States.

[See General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 76—85.]

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

SECTION 9.—Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

FEUDATORY STATES.

MANIPUR.

[Tribute:—Rupees 50,000 annually. Population (1911) 346,222. Gross revenue (average for last five years) Rs. 4,89,815. Military:—Two hundred and thirty Military Police. Products:—Rice, *dal*, vegetables, rubber, wax, tea-seed and other forest products, ponies, cattle and buffaloes. Manufactures:—Cotton cloth, silk cloth, brass and other metal utensils, a few articles of ivory and jewellery, some leather work and coarse salt. Minerals:—Iron, limestone, copper and salt, but iron and copper are not worked.

[Raja:—His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh, aged 27 years; caste Kshatriya. The Raja has two sons by his second wife, Rani Chingakhom Syama Sakhi, the first aged 5 years and the second 2 years, two daughters by his first wife, Rani Ngangbom Dhanamanjuri Ibemacha, and one daughter by his third wife, Rani Ngangbom Preo Sakhi.]

General.

2. Towards the close of the year the public peace was considerably disturbed by a widespread agitation against the system known as *pothang*, by which roads and schools are kept up by village labour and touring officials have their things carried from village to village. Proposals providing for the total abolition of the *pothang* system and the substitution of travelling allowances and grants for road and school repairs were submitted and sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner since the close of the year.

During the year 52 unlicensed guns and 12 licensed guns were confiscated. There were at the end of the year 932 licensed guns in the State.

Hill tribes.

3. The conduct of the Hill tribes was generally satisfactory, and the tribes in the unadministered tract, north-east of the State, gave no trouble during the year under report.

Administration of the land revenue.

4. During the year 4,937 *bighas* of waste land were taken up for cultivation and 2,451 *bighas* were relinquished. The current demand of the year was Rs. 3,27,792 and the percentage of collection 96·42. The total arrears at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 16,695.

House-tax was levied at the same rates as in former years, *viz.*, Rs. 3 on all houses in the hills and annas 10 on the houses of all Nagas and Kukis cultivating land in the valley of Jiribam. The current demand was Rs. 67,672 as against Rs. 70,111 in the preceding year. The total demand was Rs. 72,642, of which Rs. 64,419 were collected. Some Kuki villages were not pressed for payment on account of scarcity which prevailed in the south-western hills.

Production and Trade.

5. The rainfall of the year was well above the normal, but was very seasonable The transplanting of rice on low lands was somewhat retarded by floods, which also damaged the seedlings in some places. No very serious loss, however, resulted from this cause, but an epidemic of rinderpest among the plough cattle resulted in a considerable area remaining uncultivated. The scarcity in the south-western hills, mentioned in the previous year's report, instead of abating, somewhat increased in severity. The rice crop again failed owing to the ravages of rats. The maize and millet crops were also attacked by rats, the former being almost completely destroyed and only a small portion of the latter harvested. Arrangements were being made at the close of the year to send up sufficient rice to support the people until the coming maize and millet harvest. The State distributed 9,016 maunds of rice during the year

The price of rice was a little higher than in the previous year and much above the normal.

The Directors of the Manipur Company, Limited, not seeing any immediate prospect of working their silk venture at a profit, wound up their affairs. Under their agreement, the mulberry trees and *kutcha* buildings reverted to the State. The Darbar decided to continue the experiment, hoping it might be possible to make the venture pay. Weaving is a considerable industry in Manipur, but the school for the training of women in the use of improved hand looms has so far produced no useful result. An agreement for the working and extraction of teak on the Burma border was concluded with the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, during the year.

During the year 74,041 maunds of rice, 2,839 cattle (including buffaloes), and 72 ponies were exported, but the majority of the cattle and ponies exported were bought from Burma.

Administration of justice.

6. The number of offences reported rose from 628 in the previous year to 656. There were in all 1,102 persons on trial before the several criminal courts, of whom 252 were convicted and 649 acquitted or discharged. There were 82 appeals, of which

33 were totally unsuccessful, while the lower courts' decisions were modified in 17 and reversed in 19 cases. A further enquiry was ordered in 2 cases and in 6 the proceedings were quashed. There were 2,718 suits for disposal of the civil courts, of which 2,365 of a total value of Rs. 82,097 were decided. There were 439 appeals, of which 356 were disposed of, resulting in the lower courts' orders being confirmed in 212, modified in 38, and reversed in 64 cases, the remainder being remanded for retrial, compromised or otherwise disposed of.

Finance.

7. The gross total revenue of the State was Rs. 5,08,133 as against Rs. 5,18,626 in the preceding year. The decrease is mainly due to a fall in receipts under the heads "Export taxes on rice, cattle, etc.," "Forests," and "Hill tribes." The export taxes on rice and cattle realised Rs. 15,000 against Rs. 27,000 in 1911-12, and the receipts under Forests and Hill tribes fell from Rs. 25,700 and Rs. 69,100 to Rs. 21,700 and Rs. 64,400, respectively. On the other hand, the heads "Law and Justice," "Excise" and "Miscellaneous" showed increases.

The total expenditure was Rs. 6,22,731 as against Rs. 5,46,795 in the previous year. The increase is due to the construction of the Imphal water-works and the purchase of rice for villages in the hills suffering from scarcity. Out of a total expenditure of Rs. 1,49,632 on the water-works, Rs. 1,00,000 was met from the loan taken from Government and the balance from the revenue of the year. At the close of the year the State was indebted to Government to the extent of Rs. 1,00,000. The closing balance was Rs. 2,88,358 as against Rs. 3,02,956 in the previous year.

Medical and Sanitation.

8. A new dispensary was opened at Bishenpur. The water-works at Imphal are nearing completion.

Education and Miscellaneous.

9. There were no changes in the educational arrangements. The cost to the State of education was on all accounts Rs. 38,613 compared with Rs. 36,135 in the preceding year.

The Veterinary Assistant treated 2,754 animals as against 2,207 in the previous year. Rinderpest broke out at the close of the previous year and prevailed up to the beginning of the cold weather.

FRONTIER TRIBES.

General.

10. The year under review was a very eventful one in the history of the Frontier Administration of the province. Attention was directed mainly to the North-East Frontier and the policy to be followed to secure its more effective control. To this end several important measures were introduced with the sanction of the Government of India. A separate district was formed comprising the tribal area on the frontier east of the Subansiri-Siyom divide, and consisting of two sections, Eastern and Central, under the control of a Political Officer working directly under the Chief Commissioner. Survey operations and road construction on an extensive scale were undertaken and were still in progress when the year closed. Sanction was also accorded to the appointment of a Political Officer to have charge of the section of the frontier west of the Subansiri-Siyom divide, and effect has been given to the orders since the close of the year.

Bhutias.

11. The usual fair was held at Darranga. A considerable increase in trade was reported. *Posa* amounting to Rs. 5,000 was distributed to the Bhutia Gallongs at the annual Darbar at Udalguri, and the Charduar and the Thebengia Bhutias received their *posa* amounting, respectively, to Rs. 2,526-7-0, and Rs. 145-13-6 in Tezpur. In each case the customary presents were exchanged.

Akas.

12. The Hazarikhoa and Kapaschors received their *posa* amounting to Rs. 164 and Rs. 536, respectively, in Tezpur, and exchanged the usual presents with the Deputy Commissioner.

Daflas.

13. The number of Daflas on the Darrang Frontier who came down to receive their *posa* was rather less than in 1911-12, good crops in the hills being responsible for the smaller attendance. The *posa* distributed to them amounted to Rs. 3,717-9-1. The conduct of the Daflas was good. The man who was imprisoned in the previous year for kidnapping a coolie and detaining him as a slave effected his escape and is still at large. Nyiri Gam, a hill Dafla, carried away the wife of a plains settler. Two of Nyiri's dependents have been arrested on suspicion, but Nyiri himself escaped to the hills and has not yet given himself up. His *posa* allowance in the meantime has been suspended. Thirteen Daflas were allowed to settle in the plains.

Miris and Apa Tanangs.

14. The usual peaceful intercourse and trade with the Apa Tanangs was uninterrupted and the conduct of the hill Miris was good.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Abors.

15. In January a survey party escorted by a force of Military Police and accompanied by the Political Officer, Central and Eastern Sections, North-East Frontier, entered the Abor Hills to complete the survey begun in the previous year. The survey operations were concluded after the close of the year.

The Abors have given no trouble since the punitive expedition of the preceding year. A trade post was established at Pasighat, and it is proposed that another should be opened at or near Rotung. Military Police outposts were established at Kobo, Pasighat, and Balek.

Mishmis.

16. A survey party escorted by a Military Police force and accompanied by a Political Officer was engaged in mapping in the area drained by the Dibong river and its tributaries. The operations were completed after the close of the year. A company of Sappers and Miners and a double company of Pioneers were employed in improving the track from Nizamghat northwards. These troops were, however, recalled in January to assist the Lohit Valley Road Party, which was entrusted with the construction of a road from Sunpura to Walong. Rapid progress was made, but heavy rainfall and floods caused extensive damage to the road and compelled the sudden withdrawal of the party.

The conduct of the various Mishmi tribes was good.

Hkamtis, Singphos and Rangpang Nagas.

17. The Assistant Political Officer made a tour through the country south of the Lohit as far as the Turang river to the south and the Noa Dihing to the east, and visited the whole of the Singphos and Hkamti country and so much of the Rangpang Naga country as falls within the newly-constituted North-East Frontier district.

Nagas.

18. The conduct of the Bardurias, Namsangias, and Bormithunias was good, and parties came down, as usual, in the cold weather to cut jungle on tea gardens.

Naga Hills.

19. On the Naga Hills frontier a punitive expedition was despatched to punish Chinglong, a trans-frontier village, for an outrage committed on certain British subjects of the village of Wanching lying within the newly-annexed area. The offending village assisted by the allied villages of the Tautak group attacked and inflicted loss on the column, and this necessitated the despatch of a second and stronger force, which inflicted summary punishment on the villages concerned and secured the peace of the frontier. The Deputy Commissioner subsequently made a tour through the trans-Dikhu territory and visited all the villages in the recently-annexed area. A Military Police post has been established at Wakching in this area.

Garo Hills.

20. The Garos were quiet and well behaved during the year.

Lushai Hills.

21. The southern boundary as approved by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam was demarcated by the Subdivisional Officer, Lungleh.

Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

22. Politically the year was uneventful.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the people.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-13.]

Condition of the people.

23. The general conditions of the year were, on the whole, favourable to agriculture. The outturn of the winter rice crop was above the average in the districts of Cachar and Sylhet and was generally normal or above the normal throughout the Assam Valley Division. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, a drought in May followed by heavy and continuous downpours in June adversely affected the potato crop. In the Naga Hills and the Lushai Hills standing crops were again damaged by rats, though less seriously than in the preceding year. The weather was specially favourable to tea in both the Valleys and to lac cultivation in the Hills of Nowgong. The outturn of jute was good.

The condition of the cultivating and labouring classes was good in all the plains districts except Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. In parts of Sibsagar agriculturists were adversely affected by the floods of July 1912 and the consequent poor outturn of the rice crop; and in Lakhimpur heavy losses were caused by a severe outbreak of cattle-disease. In the North Cachar Hills and parts of the Naga Hills the people were badly off by reason of the failure of crops in two successive years. The situation in the Lushai Hills showed a slight improvement. The wages of labourers remained high throughout the province and the prices of the principal food stuffs ruled high in all districts except the Garo Hills, where a good harvest and the difficulties of transport combined to reduce prices.

The flow of immigration continued from Eastern Bengal districts and particularly from Mymensingh, into Goalpara, Nowgong and the Sunamganj subdivision of Sylhet, where considerable tracts of fertile waste land still await reclamation. Santhals are still migrating to the Eastern Duars in Goalpara from Jalpaiguri and large numbers of professional graziers have also migrated to Assam from Jalpaiguri owing to the rise in the rate of grazing dues in that district. The migration of settlers from the more thickly-populated parts of Cachar and Sylhet to several mauzas of the district of Nowgong continued.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION 1.—Realisation of the Revenue.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-1913.]

24. An account of the total demand and collection of land revenue will be found under Chapter V— "Revenue and Finance."

During the year there was an addition of 67·8 square miles to the revenue-paying area and the revenue demand rose from Rs. 69,37,552 to Rs. 70,88,737.

The incidence of revenue per square mile at the end of 1912-13 was Rs. 581·18, as compared with Rs. 571·98 in the previous year.

Permanently-settled estates.

25. There was no change in the area and revenue demand of the permanently-settled estates in the Assam Valley Division. In the Surma Valley the area of these estates decreased from 2,410,976 acres to 2,410,801 acres and the revenue from Rs. 3,65,123 to Rs. 3,65,067, owing to the acquisition of land for public purposes and to the purchase of twelve estates by Government at public auction for arrears of revenue and their consequent transfer to the temporarily-settled class. Of the total revenue demand of Rs. 4,71,038 due in respect of these estates, a balance of Rs. 84,465 remained outstanding at the close of the year. Sylhet alone is responsible for the whole of the balance, which is attributable to the fact that the main *kists* in this district fall in April and May and leave insufficient time for coercive measures before the close of the year. The current collections in that district, however, rose from 74·40 per cent. to 77·85 per cent. The question of altering the *kists* is under consideration.

Temporarily-settled estates.

26. The total area of temporarily-settled estates rose from 3,419,331 acres to 3,479,196 acres and the revenue assessed thereon from Rs. 62,52,802 to Rs. 63,64,051. Collections showed a very slight improvement, 97 per cent. of the current and 94·64 per cent. of the arrear demand being realised as against 96·71 per cent. and 94·25 per cent., respectively, in the preceding year. There was considerable falling off in the percentage of collections in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, *viz.*, from 99·03 to 64·28, owing to the late issue of the new pattas necessitated by the re-settlement of *rajhali* lands in the Jowai subdivision. The colonisation by Santhals, Nepalese and other settlers of the Eastern Duars of Goalpara showed some improvement, the area settled with them being 16,541 acres as against 13,099 acres in 1911-12. Under special settlements there was a decrease of 24 acres in area and an increase of Rs. 2,638 in revenue. The decrease in area was due to the fact that in the preceding year the figures for town lands of the Lushai Hills were wrongly included in this class, and the increase in revenue was chiefly due to new settlements with tea-garden managers for allotments to their coolies. The progress of colonisation in the Nambor Forest showed but little improvement, the total area taken up amounting only to 1,343 acres, of which 925 acres have been brought under cultivation and assessed to land revenue and local rates.

Hill districts.

27. In the hill districts the total number of estates rose from 12,694 to 12,847 and the total revenue demand from Rs. 68,568 to Rs. 72,269. The total collections rose from Rs. 45,631 to Rs. 46,505 during the year.

Remittances of revenue and local rates by special money-orders.

28. The system of remitting revenue and local rates by special money-order is in force in Sylhet only. The number of such money-orders fell from 3,258 to 3,152, whilst the amount covered by them rose from Rs. 9,680 to Rs. 9,848.

Coercive means employed for the collection of land revenue.

29. The number of estates against which notices of demand were issued rose from 57,923 to 60,842 and attachments of property from 28,593 to 33,835. The number of cases in which notice of sale was issued increased from 12,459 to 15,051. Thsi increase occurred entirely in Sylhet and was due to the partial failure of crops in certain parts of the Jaintia parganas in the previous year. The actual sales of moveables and immoveables increased from 246 and 524, respectively, to 276 and 602 during the year. Sylhet, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur contributed to the increase.

Serving of process.

30. The total number of processes served rose from 181,667 to 187,661 and the amount of the process-fees realised from Rs. 1,27,235 to Rs. 1,37,259 during the year. There was a considerable increase in the cost of the process-serving establishment, *viz.*, from Rs. 60,134 to Rs. 64,170, owing partly to the encashment during the year of certain arrear bills and partly to the increase in the number of both paid and unpaid processes served. Realisation from process-fees, however, exceeded the cost of the establishment by Rs. 73,089.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Miscellaneous land revenue including hill districts.

31. The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue was Rs. 6,75,312 or Rs. 39,497 more than in the preceding year. Collections were fairly good, Rs. 6,59,180 or 97·61 per cent. being realised, as against Rs. 6,22,599 or 97·92 per cent. in 1911-12. The increase was most marked in the case of "sale of waste land leases" and "survey fees."

Loans.

32. No loans were made under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The total loans advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act amounted to Rs. 2,67,991 against Rs. 3,88,271 in the preceding year, and the amount outstanding at the commencement of the year was Rs. 4,40,575. Of the total debit of Rs. 7,08,566, the amount due for collection within the year was Rs. 69,978, of which Rs. 51,724 were collected and Rs. 82 remitted.

Other revenue work.

33. In Kamrup a considerable portion of the area damaged by the earthquake of 1897 has been reclaimed in mauzas Hajo and Uparbarbhag owing to the opening of the Moamarijan. Some progress has also been made in draining the country water-logged by the Pagladia below Nalbari. The Kharai *bund* in the district of Darrang was kept in good condition throughout the year. An endeavour was made to prevent the erosion of the river bank along the red road in Dibrugarh town and about Rs. 30,000 were spent thereon. The work did not, however, meet with success and the river has again cut badly into the bank.

Partitions.

34. Omitting summary partitions effected on the spot under Rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual, the number of partition cases instituted during the year rose from 244 to 304. Including 196 cases pending from the previous year, there were in all 500 cases for disposal, of which 247 were disposed of during the year, 253 remaining pending.

SECTION 2.—Surveys and Settlements.

[*See* Reports on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1913.]

Survey.

35. During the year under report, the office of the Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam, was removed from Shillong to Calcutta, and a proposal was submitted to the Government of India for the recruitment of an Imperial Officer of the Survey of India as Second Assistant Director of Surveys. The proposal was sanctioned by the Supreme Government after the close of the year. Preliminary arrangements are in progress for starting a central Survey school for the province at a site in the neighbourhood of Gauhati. The Royal Humane Society's Medal for saving life was presented to Tindal Abad of the Assam Survey Party during the year.

The survey programme in the Lakhimpur district consisted of the skeleton survey of 37 tea grants. It was only found possible to traverse 22 grants. In Kamrup the traverse of some extension survey area was carried out. The relaying of boundaries was undertaken in some other districts.

36. In May 1913, the Director of Surveys called a meeting of the Government approved surveyors of the province at Gauhati in which the new rules sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner for the guidance of such surveyors were discussed. The opportunity was also taken to discuss survey matters in the province generally. Several important points recorded in the proceedings of the conference are under the consideration of this Administration.

37. The Shillong Drawing Office printed for Assam 48,564 copies of maps, of which 13,600 were village maps.

Settlement.

38. The preliminary report on the resettlement of the Dibrugarh town was submitted to the Local Administration in September 1912. Representations were subsequently received from various residents of the town against the rates of assessment proposed by the local officers. The Chief Commissioner then directed the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, to visit Dibrugarh and consider the memorials with the Deputy Commissioner and the Director of Land Records on the spot, after giving an opportunity to the leading memorialists to represent their case personally. This was done and, on receipt of the Commissioner's views, the Chief Commissioner sanctioned the classification of sites and rates of assessment in September 1913. The revenue calculation is now in progress and a final report showing the result of the resettlement is awaited.

39. The question of the resettlement of the three khas Duars—Chirang, Ripu and Guma in the district of Goalpara was considered during the year and orders issued for a regular survey and resettlement of the Guma Duar. Proposals for the resettlement of the Bijni and Sidli Duars with the Rani of Bijni and the Raja of Sidli, respectively, are under the consideration of the Local Administration.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

40. The current settlement of the Cachar district expires on the 1st April 1915. During the year under report, Mr. W. L. Scott was deputed to enquire into the economic conditions of the people and the state of records and to report on the desirability of revising the settlement or extending it for another term of years. On receipt of his report and the recommendations of the local officers re-settlement operations were sanctioned and a Settlement Officer appointed. The leases of the last batch of *jangalburi* mahals in Cachar, consisting of 25 estates and covering an area of 1·3 square miles, fell in on the 31st March 1913. The estates were re-settled by the Deputy Commissioner.

41. During the year good progress was made in the resettlement of the 2,450 Nankarpatwarigiri and other temporarily-settled estates in Sylhet.

42. The important question of the survey and preparation of a record-of-rights for the permanently-settled areas of the Sylhet district has frequently been discussed in the past, but no final decision was reached owing to conflicting opinions as to the difficulties likely to be encountered and uncertainty as to the actual requirements. In order to enable him to arrive at a decision in regard to this question, the Chief Commissioner summoned a conference of officers having special knowledge of the subject, and in accordance with their opinion moved the Government of India to sanction in the first instance experimental operations over a limited, but typical area, consisting of parganas Renga, Dakhinkach and Baraya, in the sadr subdivision of Sylhet, covering an area of 94·6 square miles approximately. The Government of India have accorded sanction to the proposal and arrangements are in progress to commence settlement operations from the field season of 1914-15.

43. Extension surveys were carried out by the Land Records Agency in six districts, the actual area surveyed being 106 square miles.

SECTION 3.—Land Records.

Land Records.

44. During the year under report no change was made in the sanctioned strength of mandals and patwaris for the province. Strenuous efforts were made to secure resident mandals for all the lots and as a result the number of recorders who now reside in their lots or have been exempted from residence has increased by 83. The sanctioned number of Supervisor Kanungos also remained unchanged, *viz.*, 46 in the first grade and 25 in the second grade, besides the Mauzadar Kanungo of the Eastern Duars who receives Rs. 25 a month for the supervision of land records work in his mauza.

SECTION 4.—Settlement for special cultivation (waste lands).

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-1913.]

Settlement for special cultivation.

45. The total area settled for special cultivation was 1,138,471 acres with a revenue demand of Rs. 7,19,426. There was a net increase of 2,212 acres or ·19 per cent. in area, and of Rs. 36,641, or 5·36 per cent. in revenue, as compared with the previous year. The expansion in revenue was largely due to the resettlement at enhanced rates of expired 30-year grants.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

Nil.

SECTION 6.—Wards' Estates.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-1913.]

Revenue, rent and cesses.

46. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards was 9, including the following 4 estates the management of which was undertaken during the year under report :—

(i) Estate of Mufti Nuruddin Muhammad of Sylhet.

(ii) Estate of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ahiya of Sylhet.

(iii) Sylhet portion of the estate of Sir Sourindra Mohan Tagore of Calcutta.

(iv) Sylhet portion of the estate of Kumar Upendra Chandra Chaudhuri of Golokpur in the district of Mymensingh.

No estate was released during the year. Accurate figures for the estate of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ahiya, which was under the management only for a short period during the year, are not available and the information relating to that estate is not therefore included in this report.

The total revenue and cesses payable, including an arrear of Rs. 441 due to Government, was Rs. 22,156. Payments amounted to Rs. 21,380, or 98·5 per cent. on the current demand, as compared with 100·6 per cent. in the preceding year. Payments on account of rent and cesses to superior landlords were made in full.

Collections.

47. The total demand on account of rents and cesses due to all the estates, including an arrear demand of Rs. 2,63,036, amounted to Rs. 5,33,565. Of this sum, Rs. 2,79,895, or 103·4 per cent. on the current demand, as against 80·5 per cent. in 1911-12, were collected and Rs. 40,686 remitted as being barred or otherwise irrecoverable. The balances outstanding at the end of the year aggregated Rs. 2,12,984, or 78·8 per cent. on the current demand, as compared with 94·9 per cent. in the previous year. There has been an improvement in the collections of all estates except the Golam Rabbani estate. The wards of this estate now wish to have it released on repayment of the loan taken from the Countess of Dufferin Fund and a conditional order to that effect has recently been passed.

Debts.

48. Debts of the Kumar Gopika Raman Ray estate which carried a high rate of interest were consolidated by a loan of 4 lakhs from the Countess of Dufferin Fund and the debts of this estate were further reduced by payment and compromise by Rs. 65,263. The estates of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ahiya and Mufti Nuruddin Muhammad are heavily involved in debt, as are also those of Sir Sourindra Mohan Tagore and Kumar Upendra Chandra Chaudhuri.

Management charges and improvements.

49. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 16·0 against 14·7 in the previous year. The increase was due to the fact that the revised system of management, introduced in the middle of the previous year, was in force throughout the year. The small Pallakandi estate is now under the direct management of the General Manager and the cost has been reduced to 18·6 from 25·8 in the previous year by the abolition of the post of Assistant Manager. The Prithimpassa estate is the only estate which was able to afford a liberal expenditure on schools, dispensaries and other works of utility. The education of the minor wards was carefully attended to.

SECTION 7.—Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-1913.]

Material condition of the people.

50. The condition of the cultivating and labouring classes was good in all the plains districts except Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. In parts of Sibsagar agriculturists were adversely affected by the floods of July 1912, and the consequent poor outturn of the rice crop; and in Lakhimpur heavy losses were caused by a severe outbreak of cattle-disease. In the North Cachar Hills and parts of the Naga Hills the people were badly off by reason of the failure of crops in two successive years. Conditions in the Lushai Hills showed a slight improvement. The wages of labourers remained high throughout the province and the prices of the principal food stuffs ruled high in all districts except the Garo Hills, where a good harvest and difficulties of transport combined to reduce prices.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—Legislative Authority.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 92-94.]

SECTION 2.—Course of Legislation.

51. In November 1912, a Legislative Council was created for Assam. Its constitution and powers were described in Chapter III, Section I of the Report published last year. During the year 1912-13, the Eastern Bengal and Assam Military Police Act, III of 1912, was declared to be in force in Assam, the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, was extended to the Municipality of Silchar, and the provisions of Part X of the same Act were extended to the Sylhet Municipality.

SECTION 3.—Police.

MILITARY POLICE.

Strength.

52. The Silchar and Tura detachments, which were formerly incorporated with the Dacca Battalion, were taken over by the Assam Administration in November 1912 and were maintained as separate units pending their amalgamation with one or other of the Assam Battalions. The sanction of the Government of India was accorded during the year to the formation of a new Battalion for the North-East Frontier, and proposals were submitted to that Government after the close of the year for the reorganization of the whole Military Police Force of the province into four uniform Battalions of equal strength.

Efficiency.

53. The absence during the year of a large proportion of the total Military Police force on special frontier operations interfered with the ordinary drill and musketry courses, but the practical experience gained in these operations will be of far greater value than barrack-square instruction. The discipline of the force was good.

Casualties.

54. The number of retirements on pension rose from 33 in the previous year to 62, the increase being attributed to the hardships experienced on the frontier operations. Casualties of other kinds showed a decrease.

Health.

55. A slight increase occurred in the number of deaths as the result of exposure on the Abor expedition, but the general health of the force showed a marked improvement, the percentage of admissions into hospital falling from 99·63 to 70·37.

Military operations.

56. The active policy pursued on the North-East Frontier subjected the Military Police to a severe strain and tested very thoroughly their worth as a frontier force. The Abor Expedition and the Miri and Mishmi Missions carried out at the close of 1911-12 and the Dehong and Debong Survey operations, and the construction of the Lohit Valley road undertaken during the year under report, necessitated the employment on the frontier, for prolonged periods, of the whole of the Lakhimpur Battalion and detachments of the Naga Hills and Lushai Hills Battalions. Serving under conditions which involved considerable hardships and exposure, the force acquitted itself well and the conduct of both officers and men was highly commended. The demands occasioned by these expeditions necessitated the temporary abandonment of some outposts, while for others the services of a wing of the 1-8th Gurkhas were placed at the disposal of the Administration by the Government of India. An outrage committed in British territory on the Naga Hills frontier necessitated the despatch of a punitive force of military police against the offending village. A group of allied villages combined to offer resistance and by a sudden attack on the rear guard compelled the column to retire. A stronger force composed of regulars and military police was promptly sent out, and signal punishment was inflicted on all the villages concerned in the attack.

CIVIL POLICE.

Strength.

57. Further progress was made in the reorganization of the subordinate civil police, and during 1912 the force was strengthened by the addition of 3 Inspectors, 7 Sub-Inspectors, 1 European Sergeant, 12 head constables and 152 constables.

58. The discipline and efficiency of the armed reserve was far from satisfactory. The system of joint recruitment for the armed and unarmed branches of the force has been proved to be a failure. The men prefer the easier thana life and are discontented and inefficient during their period of service in the armed reserve. For the functions required of the armed branch, a well organized body of men, recruited mainly from up-country, is essential, and separate recruitment and higher rates of pay are necessary to remove the existing unpopularity and inefficiency of the armed reserve. The principle of separate recruitment has already been sanctioned, and proposals for an increase of pay have since the close of the year been submitted to the Government of India. The Reserves.

The ordinary reserve proved to be inadequate in most districts, and steps will be taken to bring the force up to the full sanctioned strength sanctioned under the reorganization scheme.

59. For some years serious and ever-increasing difficulty has been experienced in obtaining recruits. The Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam deputed a special officer to enquire into the causes of this difficulty, and his report showed that it was due almost entirely to the inadequacy of the pay offered. To this cause also is to be attributed the want of discipline which is largely in evidence, as the pay is not sufficient to induce the men to submit to strict discipline in order to retain their appointments. An increase in the pay of constables and head constables is urgently needed to improve recruitment and discipline, and proposals to that effect have since the close of the year been submitted to the Government of India. Recruitment and efficiency.

The work of Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors generally was not satisfactory. They were inclined to overlook the shortcomings of their subordinates, to shirk responsibility, and to fail to realise the duties of their position. A stricter selection of officers for promotion, closer supervision and supersession and reversion where necessary must be enforced.

60. The number of judicial punishments rose from 40 to 47, but no officer of or above the rank of Sub-Inspector was judicially punished and no civil suit was instituted against the police. Departmental punishments showed a slight reduction. The number of criminal charges brought against the police rose from 56 in 1911 to 85 in the year under report, but the number of convictions fell from 20 to 19, an indication of an increasing tendency towards the preferring of unfounded or frivolous charges against the police. The cases which ended in conviction were, with the exception of one case of bribery, of minor offences. Conduct.

61. An increase in the number of running train thefts was reported, but this was attributed to better reporting and not to an actual increase of crime. Cases of placing obstructions on the line occurred more frequently, though none was of a serious nature, but there was a marked reduction in the number of cases of stone throwing at trains, the appointment of villagers as special constables to patrol the line having had a most salutary effect. Railway Police.

62. During the year under report Assam had no river police of its own, but the Bengal River Police maintained two stations in this province, one on the Surma river and the other on the Meghna. It has been decided that launches for patrol duty on the rivers will be maintained by this Administration. River Police.

63. The only training institution in Assam is the school for constables at Silchar. Probationary Assistant and Deputy Superintendents are at present trained in Bengal, while Probationary Sub-Inspectors have to be trained in the districts. The Government of India have been asked to sanction the creation of a combined college for the training of cadets and constables. Training Schools.

64. Rural police exist at present only in three districts of the province, and the question of introducing them into other districts is now under consideration. Rural Police.

65. The total net cost of the department increased by Rs. 1,21,046, which was due partly to the additions to the strength of the force and partly to the creation of separate headquarters offices in Shillong on the reconstitution of the province. Finance.

66. There was an increase of over 1,000 in the cases of cognizable crime reported during the year. Of the total number of cases for disposal by the police, 85·5 per cent. were investigated, as compared with 80·4 in 1911. Of the cases investigated, 47·4 per cent. were sent up for trial, as compared with 48·4 in the previous year. Serious crime increased under all heads except dakaiti; the increase was most marked in cases of burglary and theft in the districts of Lakhimpur and Sibsagar and of rioting in Sylhet. The absence of a record-of-rights is responsible for most of the riots in Crime.

PROTECTION.

Sylhet, and it is proposed in the near future to undertake the preparation of such a record in a selected area and, if it prove successful, to continue the work over the whole districts. Bad characters among the increasing number of immigrants from up country and among the tea-garden population are held responsible for the increase in crime against property in the Assam Valley. A more effective use is required of the preventive sections 109 and 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The increase in crime was accompanied by an increase in the number of successful prosecutions. Of all cognisable cases decided, 64·4 per cent. against 61·3 per cent. in the previous year ended in conviction, while in police cases alone the percentage was 79·1. The increase was most pronounced in sessions cases, where the percentage of convictions rose from 74·8 to 81·3.

An increase in the number of false cases was accompanied by more numerous prosecutions and convictions under sections 182 and 211, Indian Penal Code, and the number of cases in which compensation was awarded under section 250, Criminal Procedure Code, was also greater.

General.

67. The Criminal Investigation Department consisted of an altogether inadequate staff and the necessity of strengthening it has been recognized and additional appointments have been sanctioned since the close of the year under report. A Finger Print Bureau was established in Shillong on the reconstitution of the province.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

Judicial staff.

68. The Judicial staff employed on criminal work consisted of two Sessions Judges, one Additional Sessions Judge, eight District Magistrates, seventy stipendiary Magistrates and twenty-seven Honorary Magistrates. Six additional subordinate stipendiary Magistrates were appointed during the year.

Offences reported.

69. During the year 39,174 offences were reported as compared with 35,983 in the previous year. Of the total, 13,062 were dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, and 989 otherwise struck off as false, leaving 22,916 cases to be dealt with by the courts, an increase of 3,103 over the number in 1911.

Including cases pending at the end of the previous year, 24,837 cases were accepted as true and 17,422 were brought to trial, an increase of 3,578 and of 2,462, respectively.

Original jurisdiction. Magistrates' court.

70. In Magistrates' courts 17,087 cases were finally disposed of, the proportion of cases tried summarily being 28·3 per cent. The number of persons accused in the cases decided was 28,545, of whom 12,735 or 44·6 per cent. were convicted. The total number of witnesses examined was 56,281 or 5,497 more than in the previous year. Of this number, 80·5 per cent. were discharged on the first day, while the number detained for more than three days was 507.

Bonds for keeping the peace were taken from 1,203 persons, and 219 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, 203 of whom were sentenced to imprisonment in default. In 99 cases complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons against whom they were found to have brought frivolous or vexatious accusations.

Courts of Session.

71. The number of cases before the Courts of Session was 237, of which 203 were decided. In the cases decided, 486 persons were tried and 346 were convicted and 132 discharged or acquitted, while in 8 cases a reference was made to the High Court.

There were 154 persons tried by jury, and the Judge agreed with the verdict with regard to 136 persons and disapproved of it with regard to 18. In no case was a reference made to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Two hundred and forty-five persons were tried with the aid of assessors. The Judge concurred with both assessors in 162 instances, concurred with one assessor in 48, and disagreed with both in 35. Sentences of death were passed in eight cases on eight persons, and were referred to the High Court for confirmation with the result that the sentences were confirmed in seven cases, while one was pending at the close of the year. Fifteen persons were sentenced in the Sessions Court to transportation for life, and one person to transportation for a term of years. Three hundred and twenty-four persons were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, two to simple imprisonment and twenty to fines. The average duration of sessions trials was 41·8 days, as against 42 in 1911. The number of witnesses examined before the Courts of Session was 1,850

against 1,534 in the previous year ; of these, 424 were detained for more than three days. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day to the total number examined was 22·9 against 25·2 in the previous year.

Appellate jurisdiction, The High Court.

72. There were in all 105 appeals for disposal by the High Court and 99 were decided. The judgments of the lower courts were upheld in 82, reversed in 7 and modified in 8 cases, while one case was remanded for retrial. In one case, which was unsuccessful, the appeal was preferred by the Local Government against an acquittal.

Courts of Session.

73. There were 759 appeals before the Courts of Session and 716 were decided, in which 1,320 persons were concerned. The original sentences were confirmed in the cases of 68·4 per cent. of the appellants, modified in 15·5 per cent. and reversed in 14·8 per cent. A new trial was ordered in the case of 15 persons.

District Magistrates' Courts.

74. The appeals of 492 persons were disposed of in the courts of District Magistrates. Of these, 66·4 per cent. were altogether unsuccessful, 21·5 per cent. obtained a reversal and 9·1 per cent. a modification of their sentences. In the case of 10 persons a new trial was ordered and in the cases of 4 persons the proceedings were quashed.

Revision.

75. There were 164 applications for the revision of orders passed by lower courts decided by the High Court, 343 decided by the Courts of Session and 244 by District Magistrates.

Receipts and charges.

76. The charges incurred in the Criminal Courts amounted to Rs. 3,42,879 and the receipts to Rs. 1,96,104, representing increases of Rs. 60,510 and Rs. 11,393, respectively, over the previous year's figures.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

77. There were in all 1,792 cases for disposal in the hill districts and frontier tracts, of which 1,590 were found to be true and 1,419 were brought to trial. In the cases decided, 2,022 persons were accused, and of these 1,696 were convicted and 326 acquitted or discharged. There were in all 71 appeals or applications for revision, 44 of which were totally unsuccessful, while the lower courts' decisions were modified in 11 and reversed in 4 cases and in 6 cases the proceedings were quashed.

SECTION 5.—Jails.

[*See* Report on the Jail Administration in the province of Assam for the year 1912 ; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

General.

78. There was no change in the number of jails and sub-jails. The year opened with 1,582 prisoners of all classes in confinement. The number of admissions and discharges were respectively 9,651 and 9,335 against 8,594 and 8,948 in the preceding year, and the number in confinement at the close of the year exceeded that at the commencement by 316. Of the total number of convicts admitted, 38·89 per cent. were Muhammadans, 53·33 per cent. Hindus and Sikhs, ·16 per cent. Buddhists and Jains and ·43 per cent. Christians.

Juvenile, female and literate offenders.

79. Eighteen juvenile offenders (16 boys and 2 girls) and 131 women were imprisoned during the year. The percentage of literate convicts was 5·09.

Under-trial prisoners.

80. The daily average of under-trial prisoners was 197·25 and the average period of detention in Magistrates' cases 13·91 days.

Civil prisoners.

81. Seventy-seven civil prisoners were received during the year against 85 in 1911.

There were 8 escapes in 1912, 4 from inside and 4 from outside the jails. The large increase in the number of escapes emphasises the insecure condition of some of the jails and especially of the sub-jails. Brick walls are being substituted as rapidly as funds permit for the bamboo palisades which form the enclosures at most of the sub-jails. The total number of offences committed by convicts was 2,242 or 341 more than in the previous year. Of this number, 1,832 were dealt with by minor and 395 by major punishments.

Health.

82. There was a marked improvement in the health of prisoners compared with the previous year. The daily average number of sick in hospital was 68·80 against 86·19 in 1911 and the total number of deaths decreased from 108 to 66. This improvement is attributed to the less frequent occurrence of overcrowding and to the increased attention paid by Superintendents to matters affecting health.

PROTECTION.

Employment.

83. An average of 635·05 prisoners or 39·77 per cent. were employed on manufactures and 74·39 or 4·66 per cent. on remunerative extramural work. The cash earnings of the year amounted to Rs. 30,109 against Rs. 39,583 in 1911. The main reason for this reduction in the earnings was the lack of demand for the products of the more remunerative forms of labour and for extramural work under private persons.

Finance.

84. The total expenditure on guarding and maintaining the prisoners rose from Rs. 1,48,753 to Rs. 1,78,056 and the nett cost of the jails from Rs. 1,09,170 to Rs. 1,47,947. The cost per head of average strength was Rs. 80-15-0 or Rs. 26 more than in the previous year. The low cash receipts in the manufacturing department and the increased expenditure on maintenance were responsible for this increase.

SECTION 6.—Civil Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

Judicial staff.

85. The Civil Judicial staff of the province consisted of two District Judges, one Additional District Judge, nine Subordinate Judges and twenty-nine Munsifs. Of these, seven Subordinate Judges and nineteen Munsifs were executive officers vested with judicial powers under section 25 of the Bengal, Agra, and Assam Civil Courts Act, 1887.

Original jurisdiction.

86. The number of original suits instituted was 38,730, showing an increase of 4,051 over the previous year's figures. There were 26,945 suits for money or moveables, 8,049 rent suits and 3,736 title and other suits. The increase in institutions occurred in the district of Sylhet and in the Assam Valley.

Disposal of suits.

87. The total number of suits for disposal was 48,135. Of these, 38,320 were disposed of, or 3,209 more than in the previous year. Owing to the increase in institutions, the number of cases pending at the close of the year rose from 8,729 to 9,815. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was higher than in the two previous years.

Duration of suits.

88. There was a considerable improvement in the average duration of contested cases under the ordinary procedure before all the courts, but there was an increase in the duration of contested cases under the Small Cause Court Procedure before Subordinate Judges and of uncontested cases generally.

Execution proceedings.

89. There were 24,521 applications for proceedings in execution of decrees, of which 19,521 were disposed of and 688 transferred to other courts. In 13,119 cases or 67·2 per cent., the proceedings were returned as unsuccessful, while full satisfaction was obtained in 2,727 and partial satisfaction in 3,675 cases, the total amount realized being Rs. 4,47,562.

The coercive measures employed were imprisonment of judgment-debtors in 123 cases, arrests followed by release in 155 cases, 1,470 sales of property, moveable or immoveable, and 640 attachments of property followed by its release. Possession of immoveable property was given in 1,785 cases.

Miscellaneous cases.

90. Of cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings, 3,425 were instituted during the year, 3,415 disposed of, of which 998 were contested, and 707 left pending.

The number of non-judicial miscellaneous cases instituted and disposed of during the year was 400 and 427, respectively. They consisted almost entirely of applications for deposit of rent.

Appellate jurisdiction. The High Court.

91. Including cases pending at the close of the previous year, there were 292 appeals before the High Court, of which 109 were decided. The decree of the lower court was reversed in 4 cases and modified in 6 cases, while 17 cases were remanded to the lower court. In the remainder the appeals were summarily rejected or the decrees of the lower courts confirmed.

Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

92. There were in all 1,627 appeals for disposal with civil appellate courts in Assam and 1,087 were disposed of. Seventy-one were summarily rejected and those decided after hearing, the decisions of the lower courts were affirmed in 771 cases or 75·8 per cent., modified in 64 or 6·2 per cent. and reversed in 154 or 15·1 per cent., the remainder being remanded to the lower courts. The results were more favourable to the lower courts than in the previous year.

Receipts and charges.

93. Receipts from Civil Courts rose from Rs. 5,76,040 in 1911 to Rs. 6,27,393 in 1912 and expenditure from Rs. 2,74,821 to Rs. 2,86,408, yielding an increase of Rs. 39,766 in the surplus.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

Civil justice in the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

94. The number of civil suits instituted in the hill districts was 1,411 and their total value Rs. 1,33,745. In all there were 1,594 suits for disposal, of which 1,347 were decided. There were 41 appeals, of which 35 were decided, two being summarily dismissed, while the decisions of the lower courts were confirmed in 20, modified in 11 and reversed in 2 cases. Of 10 miscellaneous appeals, 5 were rejected, while in the remainder the orders were modified.

SECTION 7.—Registration.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in Assam for the year 1912; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

Registration offices.

95. The number of offices at work in 1912 was 37 as in the previous year. A Joint Sub-Registry office was opened at Palonghat in the district of Cachar, as an experimental measure, in March 1913.

Administration.

96. A separate provincial cadre of Sub-Registrars was formed, with the sanction of the Government of India, after the separation of Assam from Eastern Bengal. Incremental pay rising from Rs. 175 to Rs. 250 per mensem was attached to the two posts of Special Sub-Registrar.

Documents registered.

97. The total number of documents registered in the province rose from 71,192 to 74,239, the increase being due to normal expansion of business.

Receipts and expenditure.

98. Receipts rose from Rs. 89,199 to Rs. 91,015, while the expenditure decreased from Rs. 56,738 to Rs. 55,943.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

99. The number of ceremonies registered under the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act during the year decreased by 161. The decrease was most marked in Sylhet and was due to the closure for a considerable portion of the year of the important office of Balaganj.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

100. Fifty-six companies limited by shares and registered under Act VI of 1882 were at work during the year with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 12,84,084 as compared with 49 companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 9,85,181 at the close of the previous year. There was a single company limited by guarantee. Seven new companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 57,172 were registered during the year. Five of these were "trading companies," one belonged to the "mills and presses" class, and one to that of "tea and other planting companies."

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration.

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports on the Working of Municipalities in Assam during the year 1912-1913; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

101. During the year Act III (B.C.) of 1884 was introduced in the Silchar Municipality, in replacement of Act V(B.C.) of 1876 and the boundaries of the Dibrugarh Municipality were revised; Part X of the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, was extended to the Sylhet Municipality, and Parts VII and IX of the Act to the Silchar Municipality. Rules framed by the Commissioners of the Silchar Municipality under the Hackney Carriage Act, XIV of 1879, and by-laws framed by the Shillong, Sylhet, Silchar, Goalpara, Dhubri and Jorhat Municipalities were confirmed. Since the close of the year the Habiganj Union has been converted into a Municipality under Act III (B.C.) of 1884, and new Municipalities have been established at Karimganj and Sunamganj. Proposals for establishing some form of Municipal Government in certain other towns of Assam and for the extension of Municipal Government in a modified form to large bazars in the interior are under consideration. The number of meetings held by Municipalities rose from 148 to 167, and the average percentage of attendance from 63·99 to 66·37.

Taxation.

102. General or partial revisions of assessments were carried out in four Municipalities, but the increase in taxation thus obtained was nowhere very marked. The average incidence of taxation per head of population rose from Rs. 1-8-5 in 1911-12 to Rs. 1-10-0.

Income.

103. Government contributions fell from Rs. 2,65,063 to Rs. 2,38,797, whilst the income from local sources rose from Rs. 2,61,052 to Rs. 2,74,705. The net result was a reduction of income by Rs. 8,732.

Expenditure.

104. The total expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 4,99,854 against Rs. 4,12,757 in the year 1911-12.

PROTECTION.

Water-supply.

105. Capital and maintenance charges on account of water-supply rose from Rs. 81,881 and Rs. 21,762 to Rs. 1,17,741 and Rs. 28,245, respectively. The capital charges were almost entirely in respect of the water-supply scheme of the Jorhat municipality, funds for which were provided by the Local Government last year.

Conservancy and drainage.

106. The expenditure on conservancy rose from Rs. 1,07,195 to Rs. 1,14,515. The conservancy arrangements in most towns are still defective notably in Sylhet and Dibrugarh, where schemes for improvement are under preparation. The capital outlay on drainage, owing to the construction of tiled drains in Shillong, rose from Rs. 453 to Rs. 5,540, while the expenditure of establishment, repairs, etc., fell off slightly being Rs. 8,472 against Rs. 8,838 in the previous year.

Financial position.

107. The aggregate closing balances amounted to Rs. 2,18,439 or Rs. 28,206 in excess of those of the previous year, and the actual balances, excluding the value of uncashed cheques, rose from Rs. 1,88,154 to Rs. 2,15,809. At the close of the year three municipalities had outstanding loans to meet, but the liabilities were not heavy, and on the whole the financial position of the municipalities during the year was good.

Audit.

108. No special defects in the accounts of municipalities were brought to notice by the Examiner of Local Accounts during the year, but an embezzlement in the Dhubri Municipal office came to light immediately after its close.

General.

109. The Chief Commissioner takes the greatest personal interest in the schemes of water-supply for municipalities which are under consideration. The recent appointment of a Sanitary Engineer will, it is expected, result in the schemes being expedited and it is hoped that good progress will now be made.

SECTION 9.—Local Boards.

[*See* Resolution on the working of Local Boards in Assam during 1912-1913; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

General.

110. No alteration took place as regards either the number or constitution of the nineteen Local Boards in the province; but the number of successful meetings and the average percentage of attendance thereat considerably increased during the year under report. A draft Local Self-Government Bill has been submitted to the Government of India, and it is hoped that it will be possible to introduce it in the Provincial Legislative Council in the near future. The question of improving the prospects of the clerical staff of the Boards is under consideration, and the Chief Commissioner has made enquiries as to the competency of the existing Public Works staff.

Finance.

111. The aggregate opening balance of the Boards was Rs. 4,16,206; their income amounted to Rs. 24,43,313 and their expenditure to Rs. 22,50,132, the balance at the close of the year being Rs. 6,09,387. There was an expansion by Rs. 7,18,355 in the total ordinary income of the year owing mainly to the increased grants made during the year from Provincial revenues. The Boards received their share of the special grants for the advancement of education which were made by the Imperial Government to mark the occasion of the Coronation of Their Majesties at Delhi, and the Chief Commissioner was also able to place large funds at their disposal for the improvement of communications and water-supply. Government grants consequently formed more than 54 per cent. of the total income of the Boards. The expansion of income from other sources was not considerable.

The work of the year (a) Education.

112. The expenditure on education kept pace with the increase in the total incomes of the Boards, its percentage on the total income being 24·80 as compared with 24·58 in the previous year. Excluding the figures for the Dhubri Local Board, which are not available, the record of the Board's office having been destroyed by fire, contributions from Government rose from Rs. 1,41,758 to Rs. 2,61,858, an increase of over 85 per cent. The Boards all fully realised their responsibilities in this direction.

(b) Medical.

113. The number of dispensaries maintained or aided by Boards was 122, that is to say, one more than in the previous year. The distribution of medicines at markets was undertaken by some of the Boards and leaflets containing instructions for the prevention and treatment of cholera and malaria were distributed. The majority of the Boards spend as large a proportion of their incomes as they can afford on medical relief, and find it impossible to supply new dispensaries in localities where they are urgently required. In cases where Boards have been unable to find funds for necessary work, assistance has been given by the Local Administration.

(c) Sanitary improvement, water-supply and drainage.

114. A most interesting feature of the year's work was an experiment made in the direction of the sanitary improvement of rural areas by allotting small sums to selected villages from a grant of Rs. 4,000 made by the Administration, in the hope of interesting the villagers themselves in such improvements and of preparing the

ground for the operation of the Local Self-Government Act which is now under consideration and which contemplates a gradual extension of village government. The experiment met with a considerable measure of success and is being repeated on a larger scale during the current year.

The total expenditure of the Boards other than Dhubri on sanitary improvements, water-supply and drainage was Rs. 1,16,088, as compared with Rs. 1,39,865 for all the Boards during the previous year. The largest expenditure on water-supply was incurred by the Gauhati and Barpeta Boards which have now almost completed programmes of water-supply undertaken with assistance from the Sanitary Board, involving a cost of Rs. 1,60,000 and Rs. 65,167 respectively. A conference was held by the Chief Commissioner after the close of the year to discuss the questions of rural water-supply and sanitation and on the information thus obtained he has required every Board to prepare a five years' programme of works for the provision of water-supply in rural areas and has made an allotment of Rs. 10,000 to each Board during the current year in order that work may be commenced immediately.

115. As the result of a conference held in May 1912, a grant of 15 lakhs was sanctioned by the Administration to be spent by Local Boards during a term of three years on the improvement of communications. Of this sum Rs. 5,73,550 was actually placed at the disposal of the Boards for expenditure during the year under report. A large number of the more important works financed from these grants are being executed through the agency of the Public Works Department, but the work under execution by the Boards' own agency is by no means small. As a result of a second conference held after the close of the year, an additional sum of 10 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner for expenditure by Boards on roads during the current and the following year. (d) Public Works.

A sum of Rs. 13,78,651 was allotted in the budget of the various Boards for Public Works, of which Rs. 12,35,539 was actually spent. The corresponding figures for 1911-12 (which however include the figures for Dhubri) were Rs. 9,04,592 and Rs. 8,34,584 respectively. The average lapse which fell from 16·3 to 7·4 per cent. in the previous year rose again to 10·89 per cent. The heavy lapses that occurred in some of the Boards are due in part to the largely increased programmes with which they had to deal; but early rain and scarcity of labour are reported to have hampered all Boards in the Surma Valley.

116. The Veterinary charges of the Boards other than Dhubri fell from Rs. 21,908 to Rs. 20,144, the decrease occurring mainly in the Surma Valley. Two Veterinary Assistants were employed by the Dhubri and Jorhat Boards and one by each of the others. The Chief Commissioner has laid it down that each Local Board should entertain two Veterinary Assistants, and has promised funds, where required in order to make this possible; but the dearth of qualified candidates has so far rendered it impossible for the majority of the Boards to engage a second officer. (e) Veterinary.

SECTION 10.—Military (Volunteering).

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERS).

117. The undermentioned Volunteer Corps were in existence during 1912-13:—

(1) Surma Valley Light Horse.
(2) Assam Valley Light Horse.

The total number of volunteers was on the 1st April 1913—

Officers ... 86
Rank and file ... 864

This number was made up as follows:—

Corps.	Officers (includes Staff and Supernumerary Officers).	Rank and file.	Reservists.	
			Officers.	Rank and file.
Surma Valley Light Horse	37	301	...	16
Assam Valley Light Horse	43	462	6	85
Total	80	763	6	101

SECTION 11.—Marine.

Nil.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 1.—Agriculture and Horticulture.

[*See* Report of the Agricultural Department, Assam, for the year ending 30th June 1913.]

Staff of the Department.

118. The staff of the Provincial Agricultural Department is beginning to take shape. The appointment of an agricultural chemist has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State and Mr. A. A. Meggitt, B. sc., joined the post in January 1914. An agricultural supervisor and two probationary district agricultural officers were appointed from 1st June 1913.

Agricultural Scholarship.

119. For the scientific training of students in agriculture, this province is dependent upon the courtesy of the Government of Bihar and Orissa in admitting students from Assam to the Sabour Agricultural College. The grant of one scholarship of Rs. 20 a month tenable at that college for three years has been sanctioned. During the year under report two successive candidates for the scholarship left the college owing to a distaste for the manual labour which is inseparable from a practical education in agriculture.

Experiments and research.

120. Interesting and valuable results were obtained with special reference to sugarcane, from the experiments in soil improvement, planting and crop rotation at the Jorhat Agricultural Station.

The new Experimental Fruit Farm at Shillong has made a most promising start under the able management of Mr. C. H. Holder.

Demonstrations.

121. In connection with rice cultivation, manurial demonstrations with bone meal and flour phosphate were commenced in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Sibsagar, Sylhet and Kamrup, at 10 centres in each district. In every case demonstrations are located on actual cultivators' holdings.

The important work of popularising wet rice cultivation as a substitute for *jhuming* continues to make slow but steady progress in the Lushai and Naga Hills. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills about half an acre of land was laid out in terraces with a view to encouraging the adoption of this method of cultivation instead of *jhuming*.

As regards sugarcane the superiority of B 376 from the Jorhat Farm over the local varieties, Magh and Tili, was demonstrated on cultivators' holdings in 12 centres in Sibsagar.

In order to popularise the use of the iron roller crushing mill in the place of the old wooden mill six iron mills were sent out in charge of demonstrators. Arrangements were made in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district to send out twelve expert sprayers to spray the cultivators' crops with Bordeaux mixture, as a preventive of the potato disease.

Demonstrations in fruit culture are being carried on in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the Lushai Hills and the Naga Hills and in the gardens of honorary correspondents in the plains.

ericulture

122. Sericultural operations, which have been transferred to the Roman Catholic Mission, were undertaken at the abandoned fruit experimental station at Umlyngka near Shillong. Rai Bhupal Chandra Basu Bahadur was placed in last June on special duty to enquire into the present condition of the silk industry in Assam with a view to the introduction of improved methods of rearing, reeling and disposal of the finished article.

The breeding of Patna bulls and the experiment of crossing Khasi ewes with Dumba rams were continued at Upper Shillong. Twenty-two head of cattle, including twelve breeding bulls and six cross-bred rams, were sold during the year. Twelve Dumba ewes were obtained for the Shillong Farm and two Baluchi goats were imported for use at Haflong for stud purposes. The poultry breeding at Aijal continued under the direction of the Superintendent, Lushai Hills.

Shows.

123. A flower show was held at Shillong in May 1913 under the management of a local committee. The Agricultural Show for the Khasi Hills was held on the 1st September 1913 after the close of the year, and was a great success.

SECTION 2.—Co-operative Societies.

[*See* Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Assam for the year ending the 31st March 1913; Statistics of British India, Part II.]

General progress.

124. The co-operative year now ends with March instead of June. During the nine months ending with the 31st March 1913, the number of societies rose from 142 to 188, the number of members from 9,758 to 10,945, and the working capital from Rs. 4,91,411 to Rs. 5,56,098. The classification of societies into central agricultural and non-agricultural was adopted during the year. Four central banking unions were formed in the subdivisions of Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat, and unions for control and supervision of small groups of agricultural societies were established in Kamrup and Silchar. The Silchar Town Bank has been classified as a central society, as its dealings are chiefly with agricultural societies. The number of agricultural societies at the end of the year rose from 124 to 164. The number of non-agricultural societies remained unchanged, except by the transfer of the Silchar Town Bank to the head "Central Societies."

Central Banks.

125. The paid-up share capital of the Pioneer Central Bank at Shillong which is Rs. 12,000 remains unchanged. Its capital from the sale of 5 years' 6½ per cent. debentures was Rs. 67,050, as against Rs. 63,150 in the previous year. The profit of the Bank on the year's working was Rs. 2,870-0-8. This Bank issues loans to societies only. The amount issued in loans during the year came to Rs. 20,600 as against Rs. 25,100 in the preceding year. The paid-up share capital of the Silchar Central Bank is Rs. 8,868 against Rs. 4,668 in the previous year, while the capital raised from deposits of members and non-members has risen from Rs. 35,079 to Rs. 43,229. This Bank issues loans to members as well as to societies. It issued Rs. 8,900 to agricultural societies, and 66 loans for Rs. 10,930 to its members. The Bank made a profit of Rs. 1,554.

Agricultural Societies.

126. The capital of agricultural societies rose from Rs. 2,05,594 to Rs. 2,33,618. The total sum issued in loans was Rs. 79,590. The rate of interest in most cases was Rs. 12½ per cent. per annum, though some societies in the Surma Valley charge at the rate of 18¾ per cent. The entire profits of these societies amounting to Rs. 8,360-5-7 have been carried to the reserve fund. Four societies only failed to work at a profit.

Non-Agricultural Societies.

127. The total capital of non-agricultural societies, inclusive of reserve funds, shows a decrease from Rs. 1,92,563 to Rs. 1,81,345. The decrease is due to the removal of the Silchar Town Bank to the class of Central Banks. The total sum issued in loans was Rs. 69,843. All these societies worked at a profit, the total net profits amounting to Rs. 8,760-1-5.

Reserve funds.

128. The reserve fund of the Central Banks and unions has increased from Rs. 1,430 to Rs. 4,108-15-2. Agricultural societies show a satisfactory increase in reserve funds from Rs. 22,523-15-1 to Rs. 32,689-0-8 and non-agricultural societies from Rs. 8,453 to Rs. 10,404-3-5.

The most important features of the year were the formation of unions, and the subdivision of the societies in the Assam Valley which were constituted on a *mauza* basis, into village societies. Since the close of the year the principle has been accepted that District and Subdivisional Officers should generally be on the management of Central Banks operating in their charges.

SECTION 3.—Weather and Crops.

[*See* Report on Season and crop of Assam for the year ending 31st March 1913; Agricultural Statistics of British India, Volume I, Appendix A, Area and Yield of certain principal crops in India.]

General character of the weather.

129. The rainfall during the year was heavier than in the preceding year, but was not evenly distributed. The spring rains were above the normal everywhere except in the extreme north-east of the Brahmaputra Valley, where they were in defect. The rainfall from June to September was again above the normal in the Brahmaputra Valley but was defective in the rest of the province. The autumn rains were also well in excess of the normal, despite a scanty fall in parts of the lower and central Valley of the Brahmaputra. The winter rainfall exceeded the normal in most districts. Floods caused some damage to the sugarcane crop in Goalpara, Kamrup and Sibsagar, and excessive rain in the beginning interfered with the cultivation and growth of jute. The weather on the whole was favourable to rice and to the oil seed crops, but not for cotton.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Area under cultivation.

130. The year was generally favourable for cultivation and the reported "net cropped area" increased by 113,635 acres. The increase was shared by all the plains districts of the Province except Kamrup, where there was a decrease of 11,635 acres. The expansion in cropping was accompanied by a corresponding contraction in the area under "current fallow" in all the plains districts except Nowgong and Lakhimpur.

The favourable weather conditions greatly benefited the growth of winter rice and bumper harvests were reaped in Cachar and Sylhet.

The outturn per acre of the *boro* (spring) rice and winter rice crops wa estimated at 100 and 111 per cent. respectively of the normal. The outturn of *aus* rice was 93 per cent. of the normal as against 91 per cent. estimated last year. On the basis of these figures the total outturn of rice in the province was 1,946,395 tons against 1,894,390 tons in the preceding year. Rape seed was estimated to have yielded 88 per cent. only of the normal. The deficiency was accounted for by the drought in December and January which retarded the growth of the crop to a considerable extent. The outturn of sugarcane was estimated to be 102 per cent. of the normal against 100 per cent. in the preceding year. The outturn was estimated to be above the normal in Darrang and Sibsagar and a normal crop was estimated in Cachar, Sylhet and Lakhimpur; in the remaining districts the estimate was from 60 to 95 per cent. The District Officers estimated the average outturn of jute at 79 per cent. against 88 per cent. in the preceding year. The total outturn thus amounts to 226,797 bales against 239,600 bales reported last year or a decrease of 5·4 per cent. This result is due to the very unfavourable weather at the beginning of the season in spite of an increase in area.

Prices.

131. The wholesale price of rice was higher than in 1911-12 except in Sylhet At the close of the year the price per maund was Rs. 4·156 or 26 per cent. higher than at the corresponding time of the previous year. Although a bumper crop was reaped, a steady market was maintained in consequence of a large demand for rice outside the province, and the large exports which took place chiefly from the Surma Valley both by the Assam-Bengal Railway and by river, tended to keep up the price above its ordinary level. The price of pulse (*matikalai*) was higher and that of mustard lower than in the preceding year. The price of *gur* remained nearly the same as last year.

SECTION 4.—Forests.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Assam for 1912-1913 and Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Area of reserved forests.

132. The total area of reserved forests at the close of the year was 4,381 square miles. There was a net increase of 60 square miles, the most important new reservations being the addition of about 26 square miles to the Nongkhyllem reserve in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the reservation of 45 square miles in North Lakhimpur. The area of unclassed State forests was reduced by 113 square miles. Proposals for extensive reservations in Sylhet and in other parts of the province are under consideration, but the large and scattered area of unclassed State forests and the extent to which they are honeycombed with cultivation render the task of examining them, with a view to the selection of the portions which are worth reserving, a laborious one.

Sixteen areas comprising 325 square miles were under settlement during the year, and 7 areas including 71 square miles were finally settled.

Working plans.

133. No new working plans were prepared or sanctioned during the year. Apart from the difficulty of framing working plans without reliable maps, the time and attention of the staff are at present more urgently required for the examination of unclassed State forests, with a view to reserving such portions as contain valuable timber, before it is too late. The prescriptions of the existing working plans were however followed as far as possible. In some cases fellings were deferred owing to the lack of demand due to inadequate means of export of timber.

Communications and buildings.

134. The total expenditure incurred during the year on communications and buildings amounted to Rs. 1,34,297 against Rs. 1,10,559 in the preceding year. A sum of Rs. 11,866 was expended on the extension of the Kachugaon tramway and on the construction of a feeder line. The total expenditure incurred up to date on the tramway which now extends to 22 miles amounted to Rs. 1,18,264. The line yielded a return of 5½ per cent. on the outlay. About 188 miles of new roads and inspection paths were opened during the year at a total cost of Rs. 34,889, and the construction of the Kulsi river *bund* in Kamrup for the protection of the teak and rubber plantations in the vicinity was completed at a total cost of Rs. 3,357. A sum of Rs. 46,663 was expended on new buildings.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

135. There was a decrease in the number of forest offences from 698 to 586. The majority of cases were for illicit fellings and removal of forest produce. One hundred and sixty-nine cases were brought into court, of which 104 ended in conviction. An offender was fined Rs. 400 for illicit collection of rubber and a Forest Guard was sentenced to 5 months' imprisonment for cheating and counterfeiting a sale hammer mark. Forest offences and protection.

The area specially protected from fire was 1,099 square miles. The season was favourable and the failures were very few. In the Western Circle 12 fires occurred—10 in forests specially protected and 2 in forests under "partial" protection. The latter two occurred in Goalpara and caused damage to 15,224 acres.

In the past many Nepali professional graziers have wandered into the Assam Valley districts, and recently the raising of the rate of grazing fees in Bengal has led to a large influx of graziers from the adjoining Bengal districts into Goalpara. These graziers in many places constitute a nuisance and it has been decided to reserve special grazing grounds for them and to discourage their presence elsewhere by differential grazing fees. The great demand for thatch and *simul* timber in Upper Assam and the possibility of utilising coarse grasses for the manufacture of paper pulp necessitate the early adoption of measures for restricting the range of the professional graziers' herds.

136. Owing to an outbreak of small-pox and to the early arrival of the monsoon, the full number of trees allotted in the Charduar and Kulsi plantations could not be tapped. Altogether 7,047 trees were tapped covering an area of 450½ acres and 14,488 lbs. of rubber collected at a total cost of Rs. 7,170. In both plantations the outturn per acre showed an improvement over that of the preceding year while the price only fell by two annas per pound, which considering the condition of the rubber market was satisfactory. Rubber.

The experiment in training aerial roots in the Charduar plantation was continued with fair success, and similar experiments are being made in the Kulsi plantation. The planting out of rubber trees through the agency of the chiefs and villagers in the Lushai Hills continued, but the system of giving out seedlings to ordinary Lushai chiefs has been stopped, as most of them took very little care of the plants. All the seedlings are now given to selected persons in suitable localities.

137. *Sâl* seeded abundantly in the Garo Hills, well generally in Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong, but poorly in Goalpara and the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The natural reproduction of other species was generally satisfactory. Sylviculture.

In Goalpara 2 plots were fired with a view to ascertain whether burning would assist the growth of *sâl* seedlings in their struggle with those of other species, but the results were only moderately satisfactory. Artificial measures for reproduction will perhaps have to be adopted to re-establish *sâl*.

In the Lakhimpur *simul* nursery 25,000 seedlings were grown and a sufficient quantity of seed sown to produce 20 to 30 thousand plants. Action has also been taken to open nurseries in Cachar for planting out first class and tea box timbers.

138. With a view to encourage the tea box industry the royalty on tea box timbers was remitted with the result that the outturn of tea boxes increased. The working of the concession was however found to be attended by serious practical difficulties and it has been restricted to two years. Experimental plant for preserving timber is being erected and it seems possible that means may be found of utilizing the large stocks of timber at present considered unfit for general purposes. Some timber has been collected in Cachar and is being seasoned with a view to its conversion into sleepers and experimental treatment with preservatives. General.

A tentative list was prepared of the more valuable species of timber suitable for furniture and cabinet work, which are at present not utilized save for agricultural purposes. Specimens of some of them are being collected and seasoned in the Goalpara forest division for shipment to Europe.

139. Two villages were closed, as the villagers left them to work as coolies in tea gardens. One village was cleared, but no new village established during the year. Forest villages.

140. Information under this head is included in Chapter V—"Revenue and Finance." Financial results.

The gross revenue rose from Rs. 11,17,569 to Rs. 11,33,228 while the expenditure fell from Rs. 8,32,158 to Rs. 8,15,671. All the forest divisions worked at a profit except the Lakhimpur, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Lushai Hills divisions. There was an increase of Rs. 66,068 in the revenue derived from the sale of timber removed by purchasers.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 5.—Manufacture and Mines.

Tea.

141. The total number of tea gardens in the province increased from 738 to 746 during the year 1912 and the total area under tea rose from 354,716 to 361,671 acres, the new extensions being 10,269 acres and the area abandoned 3,314 acres. The total area plucked was 94 per cent. of the area under tea. The permanent labour force increased by 7,983 persons and temporary labourers by 8,041. Conditions were very favourable for the growth of tea except in Cachar, where the weather was unfavourable at the beginning of the season and mosquito blight and late floods hampered the outturn afterwards.

Outturn.

142. The year's crop amounted to 198,798,283 lbs. of manufactured tea, of which 197,820,755 lbs. was black and 977,528 lbs green. The latter, as in previous years, was restricted to the Surma Valley. The increase by 11 per cent. of the total production of the year as compared with that of the preceding year was due to exceptionally favourable weather conditions.

Tea seed.

143. There was a keen demand for tea seed and good prices were obtained. During the year 15,341 maunds of tea seed were exported from Assam, principally to Calcutta. One Planter in Darrang is reported to have exported 100 maunds of seed to Java.

Prices.

144. Tea grown in the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys realized slightly lower prices both in Calcutta and London than in the year preceding.

Condition of the Industry.

145. On the whole, the year 1912 was one of prosperity. The facts that the area planted has increased and that more land is being taken up are plain indications that the industry is prospering.

146. Thirteen prospecting licenses, as detailed below, were granted during the year ending the 30th June 1913 :—

In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills—
- 2 for corundum;
- 1 for mineral oil;
- 2 for gold, tin and certain other allied minerals;
- 1 for red ochre, yellow ochre, cinnabar, barytes and gypsum ; and
- 1 for mercury.

In Nowgong—
- 1 for coal.

In Lakhimpur—
- 1 for coal, oil and other metals.

In Sylhet—
- 2 for oil.

In Cachar—
- 2 for oil.

Only one mining lease was issued for coal in the Naga Hills district.

The six coal mines worked in the Lakhimpur district produced 273,387 tons of coal during 1912-13 and the royalty realised thereon amounted to Rs. 43,414. Five hundred and forty-five tons of coal were mined in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The Digboi oil wells in Lakhimpur produced 4,388,531 gallons of mineral oil and Rs. 20,790 was levied as royalty.

The output of limestone during the year 1912 was 79,486 tons, practically the whole of which was quarried in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district. Seventy tons of corundum were extracted from these Hills.

SECTION 6.—Factories.

REPORT.

147. There were 16 factories working at the close of the year 1912. They were classified as follows :—

Printing Presses	2
Railway workshops	3
Colliery „	1
Petroleum refineries	1
Potteries	1
Sawmills	8
	16

The average daily number of operatives employed was 2,901, including 164 children (against 2,971 including 180 children in the preceding year). Since the introduction of the new Factories Act in July 1911 the inspection of factories by *ex-officio* Inspectors has been discontinued and the work of inspection is now carried out by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal and Assam, and his staff. Thirteen out of the 16 factories were inspected once during the year. No breaches of the law on the part of the owners were disclosed, and the sanitary arrangements were reported to be on the whole satisfactory and the health of the operatives was good.

Four accidents were reported during the year. Of these, two were minor, two serious and none fatal.

There were no prosecutions under the Act.

SECTION 7.—Maritime Trade.

Nil.

SECTION 8.—Rail and River-borne trade.

[*See* Report on the trade carried by Rail and River of Assam during the year 1912-1913.]

Registration.

148. For the purpose of recording the trade carried by rail and river, Assam is divided into three blocks. A record of the trade of these three blocks by rail with one another and with other provinces is prepared in the Railway Audit offices. A similar procedure is followed in the case of steamer-borne trade. All traffic by country boat between Assam and Calcutta is recorded by special agencies maintained by the Calcutta Port Commissioners. The registering stations at Dhubri and Bhairab Bazar record all trade which enters or leaves the Brahmaputra and Surma Valley, respectively, by country boat.

Total Rail and River-borne trade.

149. The total trade with other provinces amounted to 19,463,269 maunds, the value of which was Rs. 18,86,22,639. Of the above, Rs. 5,98,84,234 represent imports and Rs. 12,87,38,435 exports. The climatic conditions of the year were on the whole favourable for cultivation and at the same time higher prices were obtained. Nearly 59 per cent. of the total trade was with Bengal, about 34 per cent. with Calcutta and 4 per cent. with Behar and Orissa. The trade with other provinces was insignificant.

Imports.

150. The total value of the imports of foreign cotton, twist and yarn, was 13·8 lakhs. The Lower Assam block imported the largest quantity. Of the cotton piece-goods imported, the value of the foreign produce was 128 lakhs.

There was a decrease in the importation of rice not in the husk and mustard oil. The figures of the import trade of mustard oil for the last three years were 117,161 maunds, 112,774 maunds and 103,699 maunds. This gradual decrease shows the increasing outturn of the oil mills of the province and is a matter for congratulation. In spite of the output from the oil fields at Digboi, the importation of kerosine oil increased owing apparently in the main to the crudeness of the oil produced by the Digboi fields. The importation of salt decreased in quantity from 929,799 maunds to 820,767 maunds, the reason assigned being that the large amount imported last year was in excess of the demand. The import of unrefined sugar increased from 306,543 maunds to 347,594 maunds and that of refined sugar from 141,431 maunds to 173,837 maunds. The largest quantity of the former was received by the Surma Valley and of the latter by the Upper Assam block. 83,924 maunds of raw tobacco were imported against 97,091 maunds in the previous year.

Exports.

151. Tea is the most important article of export and its value represents 75 per cent. of the total value of exports by rail and river. Of the total quantity 1,579,375 maunds and 740,987 maunds went to Calcutta and Chittagong, respectively, against 1,886,769 maunds and 723,195 maunds in the previous year. There was an increase of 33 per cent. in the export of jute and a very marked increase in the exports of paddy and rice amounting to 140 per cent. and 218 per cent., respectively. The exports of timber, mustard seed, hides and tobacco declined.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 9.—Frontier Trade.

System of Registration.

152. Four new temporary registering stations were opened during the year, at Sadiya in the North-East Frontier Tract, Kokalabari in Kamrup, and Orang and Behali in Darrang. The station at Sadiya remained open throughout the year, the others only during the cold weather when the Bhutias visit the plains. The Inspector of Trade Registration offices inspected all the stations.

Trade.

153. The aggregate value of trade reported during the year was Rs. 26,89,124, to which imports contributed Rs. 16,84,788 and exports Rs. 10,04,336.

Bhutan.

154. Imports during the year were valued at Rs. 14,28,199, and exports at Rs. 9,85,703 against Rs. 5,95,336 and Rs. 41,82,688, respectively, in 1911-12. The increase in imports is attributed chiefly to bad harvests in the Hills which brought down the Bhutias in large numbers in search of rice, and the decrease in exports to an outbreak of cholera at Darrang which drove them back home before they had made all their purchases. Last year's figures also were found to have been grossly exaggerated by an incompetent Registrar.

Towang and Chardúar Bhutias.

155. Registered imports rose from Rs. 21,905 in 1911-12 to Rs. 58,700. The increase is due to the collection of statistics by a paid agency at Orang. Exports fell from Rs. 7,726 to Rs. 5,739 on account of a smaller export of paddy. The chief item of exports was manufactured silk.

Akas and Daflas.

156. The total imports fell by Rs. 27,109. The decline being most marked in the import of rubber. The Akas and Daflas visited the plains in smaller numbers in consequence of good harvests in the Hills. The total export was only Rs. 857.

Abors and Mishmis, etc.

157. The total value of imports rose from Rs. 94,218 in 1911-12 to Rs. 1,72,100. The larger amount of Mishmi *tita* " (dyeing materials—other kinds) " imported owing to the opening of an agency for it by a Parsi firm at Sadiya, and the greater accuracy in the collection of statistics obtained by a paid registering agency at Sadiya, account for the rise in imports. Exports rose from Rs. 10,441 in 1911-12 to Rs. 12,537. A good deal of the traffic must be attributed to the recent expeditions.

SECTION 10.—Public Works.

Personnel.

158. The Hon'ble Mr. W. McM. Sweet held the office of Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Local Administration in the Public Works Department throughout the year, except for the period from 8th August to 7th November 1912, when he was on leave, and Major H. W. Rushton, R.E., officiated as such, in addition to his own duties as Superintending Engineer, Assam Circle.

Major H. W. Rushton, R.E., held the post of Superintending Engineer, Assam Circle, throughout the year under report.

Mr. K. E. L. Pennell, an Assistant Engineer of the Imperial Service, was on appointment posted to the Assam Circle in October 1912, and two temporary Assistant Engineers, Messrs. R. B. Nandi and G. C. Bardalai, were locally engaged in November 1912 and February 1912, respectively, and posted to road construction work in the Mishmi Hills.

The services of Mr. E. W. Beveridge, a temporary Engineer in charge of the Sibsagar Division, were dispensed with in August 1912.

Changes in Circles of Superintendence.

159. From the 15th May 1912 the jurisdiction of the Assam Circle was curtailed by the transfer of the Sylhet and the Khasi and Jaintia Hills Divisions to the direct control of the Chief Engineer.

Revenue.

160. The total Public Works revenue amounted to Rs. 1,31,841 as detailed below :—

	Rs.
Imperial Military	7,850
Imperial Civil	1,940
Provincial	91,050
Local	31,001
Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation	...
Total Revenue ...	1,31,841

Rents of buildings produced Rs. 74,399, of which Rs. 7,186 were Imperial Military, Rs. 1,692 Imperial Civil, Rs. 64,925 Provincial Civil and Rs. 647 Local. Rupees 18,792 were obtained from ferry receipts.

161. The total outlay on public works during the year amounted to Rs. 52,39,593 as detailed below :— Expenditure.

	Rs.
Imperial Military	47,739
Imperial Civil	60,687
Provincial Civil	37,26,316
Excluded Local Funds	8,83,952
Contribution Funds	4,54,265
Provincial Irrigation	66,634
Total Expenditure ...	52,39,593

162. No military works of any importance were undertaken during the year. The principal civil works completed during the year were the combined Post and Telegraph offices at Haflong, Lungleh and Demagiri, the extensions to the post office buildings at Tezpur and Nowgong, and certain additions and alterations to the office building of the Comptroller at Shillong. Imperial Works.

The Telegraph office buildings at Gauhati (estimate Rs. 21,374) and Barpeta were approaching completion at the close of the year. The only other work of importance in progress was the construction of Telegraphists' quarters at Gauhati.

163. The expenditure on original works was Rs. 5,20,036, and on repairs Rs. 1,64,184. Provincial Works—Buildings.

164. The additions and alterations to Government House, Shillong, referred to in the Administration Report for the previous year were completed at a total cost of Rs. 19,096. Further additions and alterations to the dressing and bath-rooms of this building were also completed at a cost of Rs. 11,154. Local Government Residences.

The total expenditure on these works during the year amounted to Rs. 14,760.

165. The following were the principal original works completed during the year :— Official Residences.

	Rs.
(1) Residence for the Executive Engineer at Silchar	16,846
(2) Ditto ditto Jorhat	19,277
(3) Ditto ditto Tezpur	12,979
(4) Residence for the Superintendent of Police, Tezpur ...	14,656
(5) Residence for the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer at North Lakhimpur.	8,905
(6) Residence for the Sub-Deputy Collector at Sidli	4,907
(7) Residence for the Armed Inspector at Sylhet	3,184

The property known as "Falls View" at Shillong was acquired for the residence of the Director of Public Instruction at a cost of Rs 7,500.

The principal works in progress were :—

(1) Residence for the Superintending Engineer at Jorhat (estimate Rs. 33,303).
(2) Residence for an Assistant Conservator of Forests at Jorhat.
(3) Ditto for a Hindu and a Muhammadan Professor, Cotton College, Gauhati.
(4) Reconstruction of the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Lungleh.
(5) Residence for the Additional Magistrate at Sylhet.
(6) Ditto the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Habiganj.
(7) Ditto the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer at Karimganj.

166. The following works were in progress during the year :— General Administration.

(1) Office building for the Sub-Deputy Collector at Jorhat.
(2) Additions and alterations to the Treasury buildings at Tezpur and Karimganj.
(3) Construction of a Settlement office at Maulvi Bazar.

Law and Justice.

167. The principal works completed during the year were :—

(1) A double Munsifi at Sunamganj. (This work was completed at the close of the year except for the earthwork in raising the site.)

(2) Quarters for the Subordinate Civil Staff and a *post-mortem* shed at Haflong.

(3) Certain improvements to the kutchery buildings at Jorhat and North Lakhimpur.

(4) A witness shed at Hailakandi.

The reconstruction of the kutchery building at Mokokchang and the construction of a private room in the Munsif's Court at Maulvi Bazar were the only works of importance which were in progress at the close of the year.

Circuit-houses.

168. The tour clerks' quarters for the circuit house at Gauhati were completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 4,886.

Works in progress were :—

(1) A new circuit-house at Jorhat at an estimated cost of Rs. 25,380.

(2) Improvements to the circuit-houses at Goalpara and Dibrugarh.

(3) Reconstructon of the kitchen attached to the circuit-house at Sylhet.

Education.

169. At Silchar, an additional Moslem boarding house for the Government High School was constructed, a well was sunk in the hostel compound of the Training School, land was acquired for the office of the Inspector of Schools and the extension of the High School compound, wire-fencing was erected round the compound of the hostel and Superintendent's quarters of the Training School, the existing latrines at the Normal School were replaced by Donaldson's patent latrines, and the bamboo shingle roofs of the hostels and Resident Master's quarters of the Training School were re-roofed with corrugated iron.

Additional buildings were provided for the accommodation of the High Schools at Tezpur and Jorhat and certain additions and alterations and improvements were completed to the Fuller Technical Schools at Kohima and at Shillong and the Training School at Jorhat.

Hostels were constructed for the High Schools at Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Sunamganj and Jorhat and certain improvements were made to the hostel and attached buildings at Jorhat.

The extensive additions and alterations to the Pine Mount School at Shillong which were in progress during the previous year were completed during the year under report at a cost of Rs. 17,174.

Of the numerous works in progress, the principal were :—

(1) A new Arts Block for the Cotton College, Gauhati (estimate Rs. 49,076).

(2) Three additional hostels for Hindu students of the Cotton College, Gauhati (estimate Rs. 86,603).

(3) A hostel for Muhammadans, Cotton College, Gauhati (estimate Rs. 27,825).

(4) A combined school and hostel at Aijal.

(5) Collection of materials in connection with the provincialization of the Murarichand College, Sylhet.

(6) Construction of hostels at Kakojan, Nowgong and North Lakhimpur.

(7) Additions and improvements to the existing hostels and attached buildings at Sylhet.

Jails.

170. The works completed during the year were an office and gateway for the Nowgong jail and improvements to the jail buildings at Gauhati, Silchar and Kohima.

The works in progress were :—

(1) Additions and alterations to the jail buildings at Sibsagar.

(2) A leper ward with a kitchen for the Silchar jail.

(3) Two solitary cells and a stone enclosure wall for the Kohima jail.

(4) Certain improvements to the jail buildings, Silchar.

Police.

171. The folowing were the principal works completed :—

(1) Extension to the Police office at Sylhet.

(2) Additions and alterations to the office of the Inspector General of Police at Shillong.

(3) Quarters for the Court Sub-Inspector at Haflong, the compounder at Kohima, and a Head constable at North Lakhimpur.

(4) Office buildings at Dibrugarh.

(5) A Police Hospital at Nowgong.

The following were in progress :—

(1) Police buildings at Sunamganj, Gowainghat, Lakhai, Henema, Udarband, Dhekiajuli, Amguri, Sibsagar, Sorbheg and Teok.

(2) Office building at Gauhati.

(3) Hospital at Dhubri.

(4) Re-construction of the in-patient ward of the Military Police Hospital at Kohima.

(5) Military Police out post at Sherkor.

Medical.

172. The following works were completed :—

(1) Dispensary buildings at Gunjong.

(2) Extension of the Lady Minto Nursing Association bungalow at Dibrugarh.

(3) Mortuary at Karimganj.

(4) A Syphylitic ward at Mokokchang.

The most important works in progress were :—

(1) Temporary wards for the Lunatic Asylum at Tezpur.

(2) Two boarding houses for the Berry-White Medical School at Dibrugarh.

(3) A combined office for the Civil Surgeon and X-Ray installtation at Dibrugarh.

(4) Improvements to the dispensary at Kohima and the hospital buildings at Haflong.

(5) Additional works for the dispensaries at Wokha and Mokokchang.

(6) Quarters for the compounder, sweeper and *dovashi* at Wokha.

(7) Mortuaries at Habiganj and Maulvi Bazar.

(8) Hospital buildings at Sialsuk.

Excise.

173. The following works were in progress :—

(1) A double decked *mohua* godown for the distillery at Jorhat.

(2) A new office for the Superintendent of the Jorhat distillery and the conversion of the existing office into a *mohua* godown.

(3) A bonded warehouse at Nazira.

(4) Quarters for the staff of the bonded warehouse at Silchar.

Agriculture.

174. A Veterinary hospital at Silchar was completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 6,343.

Forests.

175. The additions and alterations to the Forest office at Sylhet, referred to in the previous year's report, were completed.

Ecclesiastical P. W. D. Buildings.

176. An extension to the cemetery at Dibrugarh was in progress.

177. The more important works under this head completed during the year were :—

(1) Improving the Executive Engineer's offices at Sylhet and Dibrugarh and certain additions and alterations to the office of the Chief Engineer at Shillong.

(2) Quarters for the Public Works Subordinates at Haflong and Jakhama, for the Public Works Subordinate and the Sub-Assistant Surgeon at Piphima, and for the Subdivisional clerk at North Lakhimpur.

(3) Conversion of the old Telegraph office building at Goalpara into a combined residence and office for the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer.

Works in progress were :—

(1) Office buildings for the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer at Jorhat.

(2) A combined subdivisional office and tiffin room at Aijal.

(3) Quarters for the Public Works Subordinate at Laluk and for the Subdivisional Officer at Karimganj.

(4) Public Works Department subdivisional office and godown at Karimganj.

Communications.

178. The provincial outlay on Original Works amounted to Rs. 12,63,381 as detailed below :—

	Rs.
(*a*) Bridges	1,38,748
(*b*) New cart-roads	3,06,753
(*c*) Bridle roads	3,54,170
(*d*) Dâk and Inspection Bungalows	62,059
(*e*) Survey roads...	20
Total ...	8,61,750

The expenditure was divided as follows :—

	Rs.
Assam Circle	7,15,864
Divisions under the direct control of the Chief Engineer ...	1,45,886

The balance, Rs. 4,01,631, was spent on improvements to existing roads and on miscellaneous items.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Roads.

179. The most important works completed or in progress were :—

The continuation of the general improvements to Assam Trunk Road and the completion of the screw-pile bridges in the 9th mile west of Gauhati and over the Jogduar in the 205th mile in the Sibsagar Division.

The replacement of temporary bridges on the North Trunk Road by permanent structures was continued, the following bridges being completed during the year :—

(1) The iron bridge over the Moranadi in the 19th mile in the Lakhimpur Division.

(2) Extension of the bridge over the Mangaldai river in the Central Assam Division.

(3) Re-erection of the Tangnijhar bridge over the Diphang river in the Central Assam Division.

(4) An additional land span to the Barlia bridge on the 93rd mile in the Lower Assam Division.

A sum of Rs. 17,941 was spent during the year in raising the North Trunk Road between Howli and Sapona in the Lower Assam Division and Rs. 18,494 were spent in raising it between miles 69th and 75½ in the Central Assam Division. The work of demarcating with masonry pillars the road-side lands on either side of this road in the Central Assam Division was in progress.

The work of improving the curves and gradients on the Gauhati-Shillong road was completed during the year under report at a total cost of Rs. 1,44,271. The widening of the first eight miles of this road was in progress (estimate Rs. 19,518).

The work of completing the metalling and improving the Dimapur-Manipur road was in progress. The re-construction of a masonry bridge in the 119th mile which was damaged by floods was in progress. A portion of the road in the 42nd mile was being permanently damaged by wet terraced rice cultivation above it. To prevent this, a large area was acquired at a cost of Rs. 37,737.

The improvements to the Kothiatoli-Amluki road were still in progress. The expenditure at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 38,467.

The work of metalling the roads in the neighbourhood of Jorhat was continued The cart-road from the Noa Ali to the Cinnamara road was completed and the extension of the old Circuit House road and the continuation of the Borpatra Ali from the Assam Trunk Road to the Malowpathar road were practically finished.

The metalling of the Golaghat-Furkating road was taken up during the year.

The metalling and improving a section of the Wokha road in the Golaghat subdivision was nearly completed.

The raising of the 5th mile of the Sibsagar-Nazira road was in progress.

The construction of three permanent bridges in the 9th and 15th miles of the Golaghat-Shikarighat road was in progress and the 6th and 7th miles of this road were raised above flood-level.

The diversions in the 8th and 9th miles of the Desangmukh road were completed.

The restoration of the Goramur road, from North Lakhimpur to Lohit, was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,11,906.

The improvement of the Old Rajgarh Ali road was in progress.

The improvement of the Kobo-Passighat road was completed at a cost of Rs. 28,166. Its widening to render it suitable to take cart traffic was in progress.

The fair weather track, known as the Digaru-Miju road, was completed during the year.

The construction of the section of the Lohit Valley road between Sadiya and the Tidding river was undertaken by this Department, the remainder of the road being in the hands of the Military. The expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 3,29,899. The estimated cost of the Public Works Department Section is about 21 lakhs of rupees.

The metalling of three miles of the Jaipur road was commenced during the year.

The construction of the new approach road to the steamerghat at Dibrugarh was commenced.

The bridge in the 16th mile of the Tizu Valley road was completed.

Work on the birdle path, known as the Darranga-Dewangiri road, was in progress.

The improvement of the Tura-Dalu road was commenced. A wooden trestle bridge was replaced by a steel trussed girder bridge.

The construction of the Chapar-Sidli feeder road to the Eastern Bengal State Railway was in progress. The bridges over the rivers Ghoga, Barjhora, Kujla,

Kanibhur and Duramari were in hand. The expenditure at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 55,444.

The construction of the Barpeta-Howli road was taken up and Rs. 17,709 spent during the year.

A screw-pile bridge over the Joyma river in the 44th mile of the Dhubri-Kachugaon road was under construction.

Improvements to the Jogighopa-Chapaguri road were in hand at the close of the year.

Portions of the 2nd and 3rd miles of the Goalpara-Agia road were metalled.

The raising and improving of the Tura-Rowmari road from Mankachar to the Sonabhuri were in progress.

The diversion at the 51st mile of the Sylhet-Cachar Trunk Road was completed and that at the 55th mile was in progress. A bridge on the 16th mile was reconstructed.

The metalling of the Cachar-Manipur road from the 4th mile to Fulertalghat (17th mile) was in progress.

The widening and metalling of the Silchar-Hailakandi road was in progress.

The portion of the Badarpur-Hailakandi road between Hailakandi and Syed Bund is being widened and metalled at an estimated cost of Rs. 39,750.

The re-placement of the corrugated iron pipes and bamboo bridges by brick culverts on the Burnimukh road was in progress.

The construction of the Haflong-Laisung road was in progress.

The Shamshernagar-Kaileshwar road was completed during the year. The construction of bridges was also completed.

The construction of the Kanaibazar-Ratabari cart-road was in progress. Rupees 42,812 were spent during the year.

Materials and tools and plant for the Natyakhal bridge were collected and a sum of Rs. 15,844 was spent.

The work of constructing bridges on the Maulvi Bazar-Shamshernagar road was commenced during the year.

The raising and metalling of the road from the inspection bungalow to the steamerghat at Sunamganj was in progress.

The work of improving the bridle path and the provision of open anchorages to the Tuichong suspension bridge on the Lungleh-Demagiri road was nearing completion at the end of the year.

The construction of the suspension bridge on the Aijal-Falam road across the Sonai river was still in progress at the end of the year.

Dâk and Inspection Bungalows.

180. A new Dâk bungalow at Jorhat was nearing completion. The combined Dâk and Inspection bungalows at Silghat and Margherita were in progress. Two new pontoons were provided for the floating Dâk bungalow at Dhansirimukh. Additional rooms were being provided for the Dâk bungalows at Silchar and Tinsukia and certain improvements to the Gauhati Dâk Bungalow were in hand.

New Inspection bungalows were completed at Saikhowa and Phulbari and Inspection bungalows were in progress at Leithe and Ramri in the Lushai Hills and at Damalgiri, Mankachar, Kakojan, Bokakhat, Panigaon and on the old Sema road (five bungalows) in the Naga Hills.

Maintenance of roads.

181. On the maintenance of communications, the sum of Rs. 9,79,746 was spent during the year 1912-13.

The following were the classes and the mileage of the roads:—

	Miles.
Metalled roads	387·22
Unmetalled roads (including bridle roads)	3,696·40

The above-mentioned expenditure includes the cost of repairs to Dâk and Inspection bungalows. The Manipur State, as usual, contributed Rs. 30,000 towards the up-keep of the Dimapur-Manipur cart-road.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

182. The following works were in progress :—

(1) Acquisition of land for European Officers' residences and the raising and improving of the *maidan* at Jorhat. The construction of the water-works was also in hand, but owing to unseasonable rain the completion of the excavation of the reservoir tank was delayed.

(2) The laying-out of, and certain improvements to, the town of Dimapur.

(3) Materials were collected for the protection of the river bank at Dibrugarh which is being eroded by the Dibru river.

(4) Protection of the town of Dhubri against encroachment by the Brahmaputra.

(5) The provision of a pipe water-supply at Tura.

(6) Acquisition of the property known as "Ravenscroft" in Shillong.

Contribution works.

183. The scheme for providing a more ample and a purer supply of water at Shillong was practically completed at the end of the year. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 81,161.

The following improvements to the Gauhati water-works were in progress :—

(1) Connection of dead ends of pipe lines.

(2) Provision of an under-feed stoker.

(3) Improvements to the secondary reservoir in the Deputy Commissioner's compound.

(4) A third filter bed with an additional clear-water reservoir.

(5) Provision of meters to private stand-pipes.

The amount spent on maintenance was Rs. 17,337, of which Rs. 13,735 were contributed by the Municipality from water rates realized by that body.

The scheme for providing the town of Haflong with a filtered water-supply was nearing completion. Half the cost was contributed by the Assam-Bengal Railway. It is under consideration to replace the existing black pipes by galvanized pipes.

The construction of a combined Local Board and Municipal office at Tezpur and the levelling of the Golaghat *maidan* were the most important works completed during the year under report.

Works in progress were an operation room for the Dhubri Hospital, an out-door dispensary building and improvements to the existing dispensary at Tezpur, the protection of the river bank at Nowgong, construction of minor bridges on the Datma road and of a screw-pile bridge over the Dhaleswari river at Hailakandi and the sinking of masonry wells in the Sylhet Municipality.

In pursuance of a comprehensive programme for the improvement of communications, projects estimated to cost Rs. 11,56,984 were handed over by Local Boards to the Public Works Department for execution. A sum of Rs. 2,25,695 was spent during the year.

Minor Works and Navigation.

184. Snags were removed from the Barak, Kusiyara, Dhaleswari and Desang rivers and from the Jeeta and Kaya *khals*.

The bandalling of the mouth of Desang was completed and an unsuccessful attempt was made to divert the Dikrang river to its old channel.

The cutting of a portion of the bed of the Kullong river, along the lower mouth of its in-take, in order to improve its navigation, was completed. The subsequent dredging operations, which were carried out to maintain the cut, proved unsuccessful.

The work of improving and protecting the bunds and embankments in the Sibsagar Division, by the construction of spurs and diversions, was in progress.

Railways and Tramways.

185. During the calendar year 1912, an addition of 15·13 miles, representing the section of the branch line from Kulaura to the Kusiyara river, was made to the open mileage. The total mileage opened at the end of the year was therefore 889·15, as detailed below :—

(1) Eastern Bengal State Railway (Assam portion)	160·75
(2) Assam-Bengal Railway (Assam portion)	584·28
(3) Jorhat Provincial State Railway	32·50
(4) Dibru-Sadiya Railway (including Colliery Branch)	91·52
(5) Tezpur-Balipara Railway	20·10
Total	889·15

Assam-Bengal Railway (*gauge* 3′-3$\frac{3}{8}$″).—The first section of the Kulaura-Sylhet branch line, from Kulaura to the Kusiyara river, 15·13 miles, was opened for traffic on the 16th April 1912. The construction of the second section—Kusiyara to Sylhet—16

miles, was in progress. The total mileage of open line (Assam portion) was 584·28 miles at the end of the calendar year 1912.

Eastern Bengal State Railway (*gauge* 3′-3⅜″).—The line from Rangia station to Tangla in the Darrang district, 24·30 miles, was completed, but was not opened for traffic until the 16th July 1913. The desirability of the early extension of this line to Tezpur has been urged on the Railway Board. The total mileage of open line (Assam portion) was 160·75 at the end of the calendar year 1912.

Jorhat Provincial State Railway (*gauge* 2 *feet*).—The total capital outlay, including suspense, to end of December 1912, amounted to Rs. 9,84,343. Gross earnings for the year 1912 amounted to Rs. 1,22,406 and the working expenses to Rs. 89,338, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 33,068 against Rs. 31,354 in the previous year.

Dibru-Sadiya Railway System (*gauge* 3′-3⅜″).—The total capital outlay, including suspense to end of December 1912, amounted to Rs. 1,04,79,496. The gross earnings for the year 1912 amounted to Rs. 13,08,569 and the working expenses to Rs. 7,46,583, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 5,61,986 against Rs. 4,30,708 in the previous year.

Ledo-Tikak Margherita Colliery Railway.—The capital outlay on this Railway remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, Rs. 16,94,069. The gross earnings for the year 1912 amounted to Rs. 96,954, and the working expenses to Rs. 54,997, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 41,957 against Rs. 30,429 in the previous year.

Tezpur-Balipara Railway (*gauge* 2′-6″).—The total capital outlay including suspense to end of 1912 remained unchanged and amounted to Rs. 4,87,240, giving an average of Rs. 24,362 per mile. The gross earnings for the year 1912 amounted to Rs. 1,20,634 and the working expenses to Rs. 85,926, resulting in a net earning of Rs. 34,708 against Rs. 31,892 in the previous year.

Messrs. Martin & Company have made proposals for the construction of a tramway line on the 2′-6″ gauge from Silghat to Chaparmukh on the Assam-Bengal Railway *viâ* Nowgong, a distance of 50 miles. The draft order and draft agreement have, since the close of the year, been received, and the proposal will shortly be submitted for the sanction of the Government of India.

The 1st section from Dwara to Maolong was practically completed during the year by "The Khasi Hills Company," to whom the rights and property of the Dwara-Therria Railway Company have been transferred by Messrs. H. V. Low & Company. Extraordinary floods however caused considerable damage, and the line is not expected to be opened to traffic until the 31st January 1914. The date for the completion of the Maolong-Therria section of the line has been extended up to 31st March 1915.

The following surveys by the Assam-Bengal Railway were in progress during the year :—

(1) Sealtek-Lalabazar Light Railway—Survey of a realignment of the first 5 miles of the project on 2′ gauge.
(2) Silchar to Tikalpur, 14 miles, on 2′ gauge.
(3) Silchar to Dwarbund, 22 miles, on 2′ gauge.

The detailed reports and estimates for the following projects have been received and forwarded to the Railway Board :—

(1) Srimangal-Manumukh Light Railway, 22½ miles, 2′ gauge.
(2) Habiganj-Shaistaganj-Begumkhan Light Railway, 16·31 miles, 2′ gauge.
(3) Sealtek-Lalabazar Light Railway, *viâ* Hailakandi, 23·30 miles, 2′ gauge.

Assistance rendered to Local Bodies.

186. Projects aggregating Rs. 12,11,524 were prepared for Local Bodies in Divisional offices, of which projects to the extent of Rs. 11,56,984 were handed over to the Public Works Department by those bodies for execution. A sum of Rs. 2,25,695 was spent during the year on these projects.

Besides the above, estimates to the extent of Rs. 5,55,516 were checked and professionally approved on behalf of the different Local Boards. Their works were also regularly inspected and check-measured by Executive Engineers, as Inspectors of Local Works, and their accounts audited and compiled in Divisional offices.

Cost of establishment.

187. The total expenditure by the Public Works Department under all heads amounted to Rs. 43,59,257. Of this amount, Rs. 6,44,416 and Rs. 83,983 were actually expended on Establishment and Tools and Plant, respectively. On the basis of these figures the cost of establishment amounted to 17·75 per cent. of the expenditure.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—GROSS REVENUE.

188. The receipts and charges of the province are shown in the tables below. The figures given here do not in every case tally with the corresponding figures given in the paragraphs which deal with the principal heads separately, since the latter are taken from the annual reports of the departments concerned. Apparent discrepancies are explained by the fact that the figures may refer to different periods, the departmental year not always coinciding with the financial year.

Receipts during 1912-1913.

Heads of Account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
A.—Principal Heads of Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	—20,97,202	98,87,490	77,90,288
II.—Opium	5,27,298	...	5,27,298
III.—Salt	1,246	...	1,246
IV.—Stamps	6,51,106	6,51,106	13,02,212
V.—Excise	...	48,52,038	48,52,038
VI.—Provincial Rates	...	9,300	9,300
VII.—Customs	...	...	...
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	2,01,084	2,01,084	4,02,168
IX.—Forest	...	11,42,091	11,42,091
X.—Registration	...	93,275	93,275
XI.—Tributes from Native States... ...	50,100	...	50,100
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue	—6,66,368	1,68,36,384	1,61,70,016
B.—Interest—			
XII.—Interest	...	13,335	13,335
D.—Receipts by Civil Departments—			
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	...	1,15,152	1,15,152
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails	...	80,424	80,424
XVII.—Police	...	1,08,098	1,08,098
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	...	84	84
XIX.—Education	...	1,14,026	1,14,026
XX.—Medical	...	18,709	18,709
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	...	20,770	20,770
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments	...	4,57,263	4,57,263
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts—			
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation, etc....	24,914	3,414	28,328
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	372	10,490	10,862
XXV.—Miscellaneous...	6,684	67,550	74,234
Total E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts	31,970	81,454	1,13,424
H.—Railways—			
XXVI.—State Railways (Gross Receipts) ...	...	1,22,589	1,22,589
Deduct Working Expenses ...	...	84,545	84,545
Net Railway Receipts	...	38,044	38,044
J.—Irrigation—			
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation ...	...	...	...
K.—Other Public Works—			
XXXI.—Civil Works, Civil	...	49,713	49,713
Ditto, Public Works ...	1,940	91,051	92,991
Total K.—Other Public Works	1,940	1,40,764	1,42,704
L.—Military Receipts—			
XXXIV.—Military Works	7,850	...	7,850
Grand total ...	—6,24,608	1,75,67,244	1,69,42,636

Expenditure during 1912-1913.

Heads of Account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Direct demands on the revenue—			
1. Refunds and drawbacks	11,972	26,120	38,092
2. Assignments and compensations	29,939	16,217	46,156
3. Land revenue	...	14,26,387	14,26,387
5. Salt	1,353	...	1,353
6. Stamps	27,071	27,072	54,143
7. Excise	...	1,11,963	1,11,963
8. Provincial rates	...	...	...
9. Customs	...	...	...
10. Assessed taxes	2,336	2,335	4,671
11. Forest	...	8,08,910	8,08,910
12. Registration	...	55,970	55,970
Total A.—Direct demands on the revenue ...	72,671	24,74,974	25,47,645
B.—Interest—			
13. Interest on ordinary debt	...	24,612	24,612
14. Interest on other objections—			
Civil	16,111	...	16,111
Public Works	884	...	884
Total B.—Interest	16,995	24,612	41,607
D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments—			
18. General Administration	1,49,352	6,04,967	7,54,319
19*a*. Law and Justice (Courts of Law) ...	...	9,06,946	9,06,946
19*b*. Ditto (Jails)	...	2,48,792	2,48,792
20. Police	...	22,33,438	22,33,438
21. Ports and pilotage	...	63,048	63,048
22. Education	...	9,73,070	9,73,070
23. Ecclesiastical	18,110	...	18,110
24. Medical	...	6,21,244	6,21,244
25. Political	...	4,65,207	4,65,207
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	13,282	1,71,301	1,84,583
Total D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments	1,80,744	62 88,013	64,68,757
E.—Miscellaneous—			
27. Territorial and Political Pensions	4,686	...	4,686
28. Civil furlough and absentee allowances ...	...	...	...
29. Superannuation allowances and pensions ...	...	2,43,462	2,43,462
30. Stationery and Printing	602	1,76,424	1,77,026
32. Miscellaneous	12,081	3,62,187	3,74,268
Total E.—Miscellaneous	17,369	7,82,073	7,99,442
F.—Famine Relief and Insurance—			
33. Famine relief	...	3,602	3,602
35. Construction of Protective Irrigation Works ...	...	...	...
Total F.—Famine Relief and Insurance ...	...	3,602	3,602
H.—Railway Revenue Accounts—			
40. Subsidised companies	...	5,112	5,112
41. Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure ...	...	4,362	4,362
Total H.—Railway Revenue Accounts ...	...	9,474	9,474
I.—Irrigation—			
43. Minor Works and Navigation—			
Civil	...	...	...
Public Works	...	66,634	66,634
K.—Other Public Works—			
44. Construction of Railways	...	63,984	63,984
45. Civil Works—			
Civil	...	5,89,901	5,89,901
Public Works	60,687	37,19,293	37,79,980
Total K.—Other Public Works	60,687	43,73,178	44,33,865
L.—Military Works Services—			
47. Military Works (Ordinary)	47,739	...	47,739
Grand total ...	3,96,205	1,40,22,560	1,44,18,765

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure.

	1911-1912.			1912-1913.			1912-1913 compared with 1911-1912.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or net expenditure —.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or net expenditure —.	Increase of revenue.	Decrease of revenue.	Increase of expenditure.	Decrease of expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Principal Heads of Revenue.	1,51,17,026	26,60,737	1,24,56,289	1,61,70,016	25,47,645	1,36,22,371	10,52,990	...	...	1,13,082
II.—Departmental Heads—										
Interest	10,840	11,666	—826	13,335	41,607	—28,272	2,45	...	29,941	...
Civil Departments ...	4,63,689	58,74,190	—54,10,501	4,57,263	64,68,757	—60,11,494	...	6,426	5,94,567	...
Miscellaneous ...	1,04,163	7,51,814	—6,47,651	1,13,424	7,99,442	—6,86,018	9,261	...	47,628	...
Famine Relief and Insurance.	...	...	...	...	3,602	—3,602	...	...	3,602	...
Railway Revenue Accounts.	32,358	12,430	19,928	38,044	9,474	28,570	5,686	...	...	2,956
Irrigation	...	63,676	—63,676	...	66,634	66,634	...	...	2,958	...
Other Public Works ...	1,35,601	33,90,895	—32,45,294	1,42,704	44,33,865	—42,91,161	7,103	...	10,52,970	...
Military Works Services	...	...	...	7,850	47,739	—39,889	7,850	...	47,739	...
Total Departmental Heads ...	7,46,651	1,00,94,671	—93,48,020	7,72,620	1,18,71,120	—1,10,98,500	32,395	6,426	17,79,405	2,956
Grand Total	1,58,63,677	1,27,55,408	31,08,269	1,69,42,636	1,44,18,765	25,23,871	10,85,385	6,426	17,79,405	1,16,038

189. The expenditure of the year compares as follows with that of 1911-12 :—

3.—Land Revenue.

No.	Minor heads.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4
			Rs.
1	Charges of District Administration	...	14,000
2	Management of Government estates	...	2,000
3	Charges on account of Land Revenue Collections	...	19,000
4	Ditto Fishery Collections	...	1,000
5	Survey and Settlement	...	39,000
6	Land Records	...	9,000

Smaller charges for salaries of officers and establishments chiefly account for the decrease under the first head. Commission on collections was higher in 1911-12 owing to the payment of arrears of 1910-11. The decrease in the expenditure under Survey and Settlement is due to the small expenditure on the Settlement operations in Lakhimpur in 1912-13. No charge on fishery collection was incurred in 1912-13 except for the payment of certain outstanding bills of the preceding year.

190. The details by minor heads of the actuals and estimates under the head are shown below in round figures :—

18.—General Administration.

Minor heads.	Actuals, 1911-12.	Budget, 1912-13.	Actuals, 1912-13.	Comparison with actuals, 1911-12.	Comparison with Budget, 1912-13.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Salary of Lieutenant-Governor, etc. ...	48,000	61,000	51,000	+ 3,000	— 10,000
Staff and Household of Lieutenant-Governor, etc.	23,000	29,000	44,000	+ 21,000	+ 15,000
Expenditure from contract allowance ..	17,000	14,000	30,000	+ 13,000	+ 16,000
Tour expenses	18,000	8,000	6,000	— 12,000	— 2,000
Legislative Council	5,000	5,000	14,000	+ 9,000	+ 9,000
Civil Secretariat	2,85,000	1,80,000	2,22,000	— 63,000	+ 42,000
Board of Revenue	65,000	...	4,000	— 61,000	+ 4,000
Commissioners	1,29,000	1,38,000	1,39,000	+ 10,000	+ 1,000
Civil Offices of Account and Audit—					
Imperial	1,70,000	1,40,000	1,49,000	— 21,000	+ 9,000
Provincial	18,000	20,000	14,000	— 4,000	— 6,000
Inspector-General of Registration and Commissioner of Excise, etc.	4,000	70,000	38,000	+ 34,000	— 32,000
Director of Land Records and Agriculture ...	...	45,000	43,000	+ 43,000	— 2,000
Total ...	7,82,000	7,10,000	7,54,000	— 28,000	+ 44,000

The saving under the head "Salary of the Chief Commissioner," etc., is due to excess provision in the budget estimate for 1912-1913. The excesses over the budget on account of "Staff and Household, etc." were composed of various petty items, the more important of which were the furniture grant (Rs. 6,000) and motor-car charges (Rs. 3,000).

The actuals under "Expenditure from contract allowance" exceeded the budget for 1912-1913 (by Rs. 16,000) mainly on account of the purchase of a motor-car.

The increase under "Legislative Council" was due to a large expenditure on furniture for the Council Chamber for which no provision was made in the Budget. The excess over the budget under "Civil Secretariat" was due to inadequate provision in the budget.

The expenditure under "Board of Revenue" represents the salary of a member of the Board of Revenue of Eastern Bengal and Assam for March 1912 which was paid in Assam.

The increase under "Commissioners" as compared with 1911-1912 was due to charges incurred for marine stores (Rs. 4,000) and various other petty items.

The saving under "Civil Offices of Account and Audit—Provincial" was due to the fact that the salary and travelling allowance of the Examiner of Local Accounts, who is also Assistant Comptroller, is debited in moieties between Imperial and Provincial.

The saving under "Inspector-General of Registration" was due partly to the fact that the lump provision (of Rs. 18,000) for conveyance of opium by private steamer from Calcutta was not required, and partly to the fact that the salaries and other charges of the Assistant Registrar and the Inspector of Co-operative Societies, which were provided for under this head, were adjusted in the accounts under 26.—Scientific, etc.

Except under the head "Commissioners" the actuals of 1912-1913 are not susceptible of comparison with the actuals of 1911-1912, which only represent the charges of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam drawn from Assam Treasuries.

B.—IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

SECTION 1.—Land Revenue.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-13.]

Land Revenue.

191. The total ordinary land revenue demand for the year rose from Rs. 72,36,111 to Rs. 74,55,474, of which Rs. 71,61,756 were collected and Rs. 10,150 were remitted on account of local calamities. The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 6,75,312 or Rs. 39,497 more than in the preceding year. The total collections rose from Rs. 6,22,599 to Rs. 6,59,180 and remissions from Rs. 3,889 to Rs. 5,276.

SECTION 2.—Sources of Revenue other than Land Revenue.

Opium.

192. The receipts on account of opium amounted to Rs. 5,27,298 as compared with Rs. 5,13,410 in the preceding year.

Salt.

193. There were salt transactions in the district of Sylhet only. Messrs. Turner Morrison & Co. had a salt bonded warehouse at Balaganj, and a new warehouse was started during the year at Ajmiriganj by Babus Krishna Prosad and Gopi Mohan Ray. The former has been closed since the end of the year. Imports of salt during the year under report amounted to 46,606 maunds against 66,975 maunds in the previous year, whilst clearances amounted to 58,440 maunds, of which 36,231 maunds were from Balaganj as against 54,588 maunds in 1911-12. The decrease in clearances at Balaganj is attributed to the decline in trade of that mart owing to the extension of the railway line to Fenchuganj. The average wholesale price of salt in the bazar at the district headquarters during the year remained the same as in the preceding year, Rs. 2-4 a maund. The net revenue was Rs. 55,403 or 5,041 less than in 1911-12.

Excise.

194. The total revenue demand for the year under report was Rs. 47,62,593 as compared with Rs. 44,50,807 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 3,11,786 or 7 per cent. The increase was shared by both the Valleys. Duty yielded an increase of Rs. 3,27,638 or 11·4 per cent., while under license fees there was a decrease of Rs. 15,670 or 1·0 per cent. The increase in duty was mainly due to the raising of the distillery duty on country liquor from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3-2 per L. P. gallon and to the enhancement in the four upper districts of the Assam Valley of the treasury price on opium from Rs. 40 to Rs. 42 per seer. Of the total demand recoverable during the year 99·90 per cent. was realised, the total receipts being Rs. 48,52,029 against Rs. 44,43,910 in the previous year. The total expenditure of the Department amounted to Rs. 1,14,609 against Rs. 1,09,765 in the preceding year. This expenditure represents 2·36 per cent. of the total receipts.

The outstill system of supply was in force in the North Lakhimpur subdivision and the contract supply system in the remaining plains districts of the Province. The revenue from country spirits was Rs. 1,91,870 more than in the preceding year, the percentage of increase being 15·78 ; to this the contract supply system contributed 98·13 per cent. Receipts from *ganja* fell from Rs. 6,88,645 to Rs. 6,87,193 owing to a decline in consumption. The total revenue from opium increased by Rs. 2 15,952, the figures being Rs. 27,38,307 as compared with Rs. 25,22,355 in the previous year. The increase was due to good settlements and the growth of consumption.

The samples of distillery country spirit which were sent for analysis during the year under report were reported in each case to be of excellent quality and free from any deleterious substance.

Local opinion as to the position of shops was freely consulted. The site of a country spirit shop which was objected to by the manager of a neighbouring tea estate was altered with his consent and that of the local general public. Changes on similar lines were made in the case of three opium shops.

The enhancement of the duty on country spirit has not entirely checked the increase in consumption, but it has resulted in reducing the percentage of increase from 12·9 in 1911-12 to 3·5 in 1912-13, the latter figure being the lowest increase recorded since the extension of the distillery system to the greater part of the province in 1908-09.

The consumption of opium rose by 2·9 per cent. whilst that of *ganja* showed a slight decline.

The report of the committee appointed to enquire into the question of opium and *ganja* consumption in the five upper districts of the Assam Valley is under consideration. During the year the limit of private possession and retail sale of opium was reduced from 5 to 3 tolas and the privilege hitherto accorded to vendors of buying a seer at a time from another vendor was withdrawn. Proposals for raising the duty on opium in the areas of highest consumption are under consideration.

The duty on *ganja* was raised during the year from Rs. 11 to Rs. 12 per seer in the districts of Goalpara and the Garo Hills and to Rs. 13 per seer in the remaining districts of the province. In Kamrup the *ganja* habit is said to be spreading among the indigenous Assamese. The danger of driving people to the use of *ganja* is one of the chief dangers to be guarded against in endeavouring to reduce the consumption of opium. A further enhancement of the rate of duty on *ganja* to Rs. 16 per seer throughout the province will take effect from the 1st April 1914.

Negotiations are still proceeding with the Hill Tippera Durbar regarding excise arrangements on the Hill Tippera border. The Durbar has declined the offer of this Administration to take a lease of the Hill Tippera shops within five miles of the Sylhet border. The desirability of effecting a reduction in the number of these shops and an improvement in their management has been impressed on the Durbar.

195. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court Fees Acts amounted to Rs. 12,80,991 against Rs. 11,85,941 in the preceding year. Of the total increase of Rs. 95,050, which was contributed to by both Valleys, judicial stamps were responsible for Rs. 65,157 and non-judicial stamps for Rs. 29,893. The charges fell from Rs. 40,391 to Rs. 36,720. The number of stamp vendors increased from 319 to 335, the chief increase being in Sylhet. With the larger sales the discount allowed rose by Rs. 2,517. The number of stamp prosecutions and the amount of fines imposed increased from 17 and Rs. 93 in the preceding year to 31 and Rs. 318, respectively, in the year under report. Stamp.

Nineteen cases of the valuation of estates for the issue of probate or letters of Administration were reported to Collectors as compared with 21 in the previous year. All the cases except one were enquired into before the close of the year.

196. The total income-tax receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 4,02,463 against Rs. 3,75,045 in the preceding year. There was thus an increase of 6·8 per cent. The increase was shared by both the Valleys. The number of persons finally assessed and the final demand for the year were 4,765 and Rs. 3,27,957 respectively. Income-tax.

Section 3.—Provincial Finance.

Year.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1911-12	...	1,08,32,564	1,23,36,294	...
1912-13	41,96,000	1,75,67,244	1,40,22,560	77,40,684

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

The Provincial Service account of Assam, after the dissolution of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, opened with a balance of Rs. 41,96,000. This opening balance included a sum of Rs. 7,17,000 on account of the share of Assam of the unspent balances of the various non-recurring Imperial assignments made to the late Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam in 1910-1911 for the development of sanitation and education and for the reorganization of the subordinate and river police, and also a sum of Rs. 1,96,000 representing the share of Assam of the special Imperial grants for sanitation and agriculture, etc., made in 1911-1912 out of the opium surplus of that year.

In the budget estimate a deficit of Rs. 13,000 was estimated, the receipts, expenditure and closing balance being taken at Rs. 1,21,80,000, Rs. 1,21,93,000 and Rs. 41,83,000, respectively. It is hardly necessary to explain that the estimated deficit indicates no insufficiency of resources. The province was able in the course of the year to spend usefully more money than had been anticipated.

Assam had no separate financial settlement for the year 1911-1912, as it then formed a part of the late Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The receipts of 1911-1912 do not therefore include any assignments from Imperial to Provincial revenues or *vice versâ*. Compared with the actuals of 1911-1912, the receipts in 1912-1913, excluding assignments, amounted to Rs. 1,15,87,000 and were better by Rs. 7,55,000. The expenditure exceeded that of 1911-1912 by Rs. 16,86,000.

Compared with the budget estimate of the year, the actuals in 1912-1913 on the receipt side were better by Rs. 53,87,000. Of this, the actual increase of revenue amounts to Rs. 2,46,000 only, the rest being due to additional assignments from Imperial to Provincial revenues sanctioned for various purposes during the course of the year. The expenditure exceeded the budget estimate by Rs. 18,80,000, of which Rs. 18,01,000 was covered by an extra budget provision sanctioned by the Government of India before the close of the year. The increase on the receipt side accrued under all the heads except Forest, Courts of Law and Jails, which show decreases of Rs. 1,68,000, Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 25,000, respectively. The fall under "Forests" is due to the fact that the budget figure was too high. The more important increases occurred under "Land Revenue" (Rs. 48,000), "Stamps" (Rs. 39,000), "Excise" (Rs. 2,52,000). The expansion of revenue was underestimated in all these cases. Increased consumption and a rise in the settlement prices of licenses for country spirits and opium and an enhancement in the rate of still-head duty accounted for the large increase in Excise receipts.

The excess in the expenditure over the budget occurred chiefly under General Administration (Rs. 39,000), Courts of Law (Rs. 72,000), Political (Rs. 3,73,000), Civil Works—Civil (Rs. 3,32,000), Civil Works—Public Works (Rs. 12,19,000), but there were savings under "Forests" (Rs. 34,000), "Medical" (Rs. 1,81,000), "Scientific and other Minor Departments" (Rs. 59,000). The excess under "Courts of Law" was mainly due to inadequate provision for law charges, diet and road money to witnesses, remuneration to copyists, and salaries of officers. The excess under "Political" was due to the omission of any provision in the budget for the new expenditure incurred on the North-East Frontier. Special grants made to local bodies, for which no budget provision had been made, accounted for the increase under "Civil Works—Civil," while the expenditure figures under "Civil Works —Public Works" were swelled by the construction of works for the Education and other departments, the cost of which was met from the budgets of the departments concerned by transfer to the Public Works budget where they were adjusted in the accounts. The construction of the Lohit Valley road on the North-East Frontier, which was not provided for in the budget, accounted for a further increase of Rs. 3,30,000 under this head. The savings under "Forests" were due to smaller departmental operations, the budget figure on the expenditure as well as on the receipt side having been pitched too high. The savings under "Scientific and other Minor Departments" were due to the fact that the budget provision for the Agricultural Chemist and the Chemical Laboratory were not utilized. The savings under "Medical" are more apparent than real, as the expenditure from the lump Sanitary grant of Rs. 2,58,500 was adjusted under "Civil Works."

SECTION—4. Local Funds.

197. The following statement shows the receipts and charges during the year of those Local Funds, of which an account is submitted to Government.

A

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Local Boards in Assam during 1912-13.

Names of Local Boards.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1. Dibrugarh	47,505 4 6	1,52,510 3 11	2,00,015 8 5	1,46,589 11 11	53,425 12 6
2. North Lakhimpur	19,546 5 4	66,862 2 0	86,408 7 4	63,890 3 6	22,518 3 10
3. Sibsagar	34,814 0 7	1,24,180 15 4	1,58,994 15 11	1,20,834 5 11	38,160 10 0
4. Jorhat	3,701 4 8	1,06,484 13 10	1,10,186 2 6	87,887 2 6	22,299 0 0
5. Golaghat	11,999 9 5	61,194 8 2	73,194 1 7	60,588 1 7	12,606 0 0
6. Nowgong	8,041 0 2	88,643 7 9	96,684 7 11	73,432 13 11	23,251 10 0
7. Tezpur	22,062 15 7	1,01,795 7 3	1,23,858 6 10	90,937 3 3	32,921 3 7
8. Mangaldai	37,738 3 9	97,013 6 11	1,34,751 10 8	93,976 13 11	40,774 12 9
9. Gauhati	27,531 10 7	1,97,486 7 2	2,25,018 1 9	1,61,011 14 11	64,006 2 10*
10. Barpeta	21,624 11 3	48,448 4 0	70,072 15 3	52,558 9 11	17,514 5 4
11. Dhubri	38,957 13 9	1,15,790 10 3	1,54,748 8 0	1,13,637 7 4	41,111 0 8
12. Goalpara	15,125 1 0	64,975 6 11	80,100 7 11	59,508 12 0	20,591 11 11
13. Silchar	17,995 1 8	1,46,311 0 10	1,64,306 2 6	1,30,552 0 9	33,754 1 9†
14. Hailakandi	24,351 14 10	55,901 6 10	80,253 5 8	58,795 1 0	21,458 5 7
15. North Sylhet	3,392 11 4	1,24,317 2 0	1,27,709 13 4	1,18,554 15 3	9,154 14 1
16. Habiganj	10,231 1 4	1,46,949 1 10	1,57,180 3 2	1,05,794 9 2	51,385 10 0‡
17. Sunamganj	9,627 10 4	91,693 3 7	1,01,320 13 11	88,801 15 7	12,518 14 4§
18. South Sylhet	30,354 9 6	1,19,194 11 1	1,58,549 4 7	88,960 6 5	69,588 14 2
19. Karimganj	22,529 10 0	1,26,817 14 0	1,49,347 8 0	12,700 3 3	22,347 7 9
Grand total ...	4,16,130 11 7	20,36,570 5 8	24,52,701 1 3	18,43,312 7 2	6,09,388 10 1

* Acceptance certificate awaited.
† As per treasury memorandum Rs. 33,120-1 which was accepted by the Chairman. The difference of Rs. 634-0-9 is due to an adjustment made in the office accounts for March 1913, for which an acceptance certificate has been called for.
‡ Acceptance certificate awaited.
§ The figure accepted by the Chairman is six pies less which is under correspondence.

B

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Municipalities in Assam during 1912-13.

Names of Municipalities.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payment.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1. Silchar	3,850 6 8	1,06,727 8 6	1,10,577 15 2	26,787 9 1	83,790 6 1
2. Hailakandi	2,174 12 7	12,231 15 9	14,406 12 4	12,195 6 1	2,211 6 3
3. Tezpur	4 537 0 4	24,568 3 5	29,105 3 9	24,900 5 2	4,204 14 7
4. Dhubri	3,365 10 10	51,654 15 6	55,020 10 4	26,449 15 8	28,570 10 8
5. Goalpara	943 1 0	9,936 10 10	10,879 11 10	9,860 8 7	1,019 3 3
6. Barpeta	2,511 11 6	14,755 8 7	17,267 4 1	13,214 1 4	4,053 2 9
7. Gauhati	10,369 3 2	71,699 10 1	82,068 13 3	62,966 15 9	19,101 13 6
8. Shillong	10,158 1 5	69,939 15 4	80,098 0 9	62,753 13 1	17,344 3 8
9. Dibrugarh	2,737 13 2	40,731 8 2	43,469 5 4	36,891 6 5	6,577 14 11
10. Nowgong	599 0 10	17,202 2 5	17,801 3 3	17,520 2 2	281 1 1
11. Golaghat	951 12 4	29,756 9 3	30,708 5 7	7,241 0 6	23,467 5 1*
12. Jorhat	1,20,862 5 4	15,504 0 3	1,36,366 5 7	1,34,269 12 0	2,096 9 7
13. Sibsagar	6,793 3 4	15,815 6 4	22,608 9 8	18,162 10 11	4,445 14 9
14. Nazira	4,237 5 9	5,563 9 0	9,800 14 9	3,311 5 3	6,489 9 6
15. Habiganj	1,131 7 0	8,207 12 2	9,339 3 2	4,009 1 10	5,330 1 4
16. Sylhet	13,665 12 6	38,369 15 3	52,035 11 9	39,588 11 10	12,446 15 11
Grand Total ...	1,88,888 11 9	5,32,665 6 10	7,21,554 2 7	5,00,122 13 8	2,21,431 4 11

* Acceptance certificate awaited. There is a difference of Rs. 108, which is under correspondence.

C

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Town and Bazar Funds in Assam during 1912-1913.

Names of Town Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
North Cachar Hills Bazar Fund	316 4 9	12,567 11 6	12,883 15 10	2,553 11 11	10,330 3 11
Mangaldai Town Fund	1,840 14 3	4,343 9 0	6,184 7 3	2,849 15 3	3,334 8 0
Jowai Bazar Fund	409 9 8	515 3 0	924 9 8	348 0 11	576 11 9*
North Lakhimpur Town Fund	4,745 1 8	4,058 11 4	8,803 13 0	3,762 3 11	5,041 9 1
Total	7,311 14 4	21,485 2 5	28,797 0 9	9,514 0 0	19,283 0 9

* Acceptance certificate awaited.

D

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Cantonment Funds, Chaukidari Reward Funds and Assam Williamson Education Fund, during 1912-13.

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
(*a*) Cantonment Funds—	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	1,924 2 0	14,936 15 6	16,861 1 6	14,367 5 0	2,493 12 6
Lakhimpur	638 0 7	2,985 8 7	3,623 9 2	3,076 3 1	547 6 1
Total	2,562 2 7	17,922 8 1	20,484 10 8	17,443 8 1	3,041 2 7
(*b*) District Chaukidari Reward Fund—					
1. Cachar	1,210 15 9	666 10 9	1,877 10 6	85 0 6	1,792 10 6*
2. Goalpara	10,652 10 10	695 6 3	11,348 1 1	845 5 0	10,502 12 1
3. Sylhet...	8,272 2 1	2,653 13 0	10,925 15 1	2,145 13 0	8,780 2 1
Total	20,135 12 8	4,015 14 0	24,151 10 8	3,076 2 0	21,075 8 8
Assam Williamson Education Fund ...	13,589 11 7	3,924 15 3	17,514 10 10	2,962 0 10	14,552 10 0

* Acceptance certificate awaited.

SECTION—3. Local Rates.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1912-13.]

198. With the increase in the land revenue demand there was a corresponding increase in the demand on account of local rates. The current demand rose from Rs. 7,73,445 to Rs. 7,83,451, of which Rs. 7,02,572 or 89·67 per cent. was collected, as against 88·72 per cent. in the preceding year. In Sylhet, where assessments of 689

separate accounts have been under revision, the assessment of 29 separate accounts was completed during the year and resulted in a net increase of Rs. 800.

Inclusive of arrears, the total demand rose from Rs. 8,57,498 to Rs. 8,74,022, of which Rs. 7,92,188 or 90·63 per cent. was collected, as against 89·54 per cent. in the preceding year, and Rs. 98 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 81,736 against Rs. 89,641 in 1911-1912.

SECTION 6.—Educational Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 7.—Municipal Revenues.

199. The subject of Municipal income and expenditure has been discussed in Section 8, Municipal Administration, Chapter III, of this report.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION 1.—Vital Statistics.

200. For the purpose of vital statistics the ratios are calculated on a population of 6,051,507, the population of the hill districts and the Manipur State being excluded. The recorded birth-rate of the Province, excluding the hill districts in which registration is imperfect, was 32·16 per mille, which represents a slight improvement over that of the previous year. The death-rate rose from 23·61 to 25·04 per mille. The natural increase (7·12) in the population, *i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths though 1·25 less than that of the preceding year, was greater than the average of the five previous years. The lowest birth-rate is recorded in Nowgong and is ascribed to the fact that the indigenous population of that district has not yet recovered its vitality after the severe epidemic of *kala-azar* from which it suffered in the "nineties." The ratio of mortality from the chief diseases were :—fever (12·94), cholera (2·36), dysentery and diarrhœa (2·19) and small-pox ·77. The highest mortality was from fever, the highest ratio being (27·50) in Goalpara and (19·58) in Darrang. The death-rate from cholera was lower than the average of the previous decade. The highest ratio of mortality from this disease was recorded in Darrang (6·37) and Nowgong (6·27). Small-pox claimed a rather larger number of victims than in the previous year. The mortality from dysentery and diarrhœa shewed no marked departure from the average of recent years, and the greatest incidence of these diseases occurred, as usual, amongst the population of the tea estates.

The following table gives the recorded results of the registration of vital statistics in the hill districts :—

Districts.	Birth ratios.		Death ratios.	
	1911.	1912.	1911.	1912.
1	2	3	4	5
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	26·72	28·21	22·03	24·19
Shillong	25·29	18·47	15·54	14·66
Naga Hills	32·60	32·19	21·04	18·98
Lushai Hills	41·16	37·58	28·65	32 03
Garo Hills	30·91	29·35	22·43	24·78

SECTION 2.—Immigration and Labour Inspection.

[*See* Resolution on Immigrant Labour in Assam for the year 1912-13.]

201. These remarks relate to the labour force imported for employment on tea gardens in Assam, in the oil refinery at Digboi, in coal-mines and in certain saw-mills. The labour employed on railways is excluded, and no account is taken of those labourers who are temporarily employed during the cold weather and return to their homes in April and May.

202. The year was again a prosperous one for the tea industry. The demand for labour continued to increase, and, although there was no scarcity in the recruiting districts, there was a considerable increase in immigration. Mortality during transit remained low, and the year was a healthy one in the tea gardens.

General. Since the close of the year the Government of India have decided that the labour districts provisions of Act VI of 1901 shall be withdrawn from the four upper districts of the Brahmaputra Valley with effect from the 1st July 1914, and that recruitment by contractors and recruiters shall cease a year later. These changes have been accepted by the tea industry, and during the year under review a further advance has been made in the gradual substitution of free for indentured labour. To meet the changed

conditions when there will no longer be a penal contract, and to give employers some remedy against the enticement of labour which they have imported at considerable cost, proposals which have been administratively approved by the Government of India, have been framed, and a Bill on the subject will, it is hoped, be introduced in the Legislative Council of the Chief Commissioner in the forthcoming session. This measure provides no penalty against a labourer who leaves his employer's service, but enables the employer to recover, by a summary procedure, the cost of importation of the labourer from any one who unlawfully employs him. The provisions of the Bill were discussed at a widely attended conference held in Shillong, and the Chief Commissioner accepted the view that the Bill should be regarded as a temporary measure, and should have effect for a period of five years only.

In the Resolutions of other Local Governments on emigration to Assam, reference has been made to the fact that Act VI of 1901 does not allow of the control of emigration from Native States. The question of undertaking legislation to deal with this defect is under the consideration of the Government of India.

The subject of the absconding of labourers from the tea gardens of Sylhet into Hill Tippera, and of the manner in which warrants under Act XIII of 1859 issued by British Courts were executed in the State, continues to receive close attention. The State Darbar has given proofs of its willingness to co-operate with the Assam Administration in the matter of facilitating the recovery of absconders, and the Political Agent attended a meeting of the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association and discussed the whole question. Some points of detail yet remain to be settled, and the Chief Commissioner is in correspondence on the subject with the Government of Bengal.

The Governments of Bengal and the United Provinces brought to notice certain cases in which professional recruiters had been employed as garden sardars in the recruiting districts. The matter was taken up by the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association, who held a full enquiry and warned their members of the necessity of avoiding such breaches of the rules. It is hardly necessary to point out that cases of this nature tend to discredit genuine *sardari* recruitment, and are calculated to make other Local Governments disinclined to afford recruiting facilities.

The Darjeeling Planters' Association addressed a request to the Government of Bengal that the district of Darjeeling should be closed to recruitment for Assam, on the ground that such recruitment interfered unfairly with the supply of labour for the local tea gardens. The question was fully discussed, and His Excellency the Governor in Council found himself unable to accede to the request.

Strength of the labour force.

203. At the close of the year the total strength of the labour force was 821,735. The number of labourers under contract under Act VI fell to 11,366.

Health.

204. The efficiency of the medical arrangements made for coolies during transit was evinced by the fact that, in spite of the increase in the number of immigrants, the figures of mortality and sickness show no corresponding increase. There was also a marked improvement in the health of the coolies on the gardens.

Fraudulent recruitment.

205. The number of complaints of fraudulent or irregular recruitment rose from 102 to 120, but the number of such complaints found to be true decreased from 51 to 46.

Act XIII of 1859.

206. Act XIII of 1859 continued to be largely used, and is again reported to have worked well on the whole. Agreements under the Act are largely executed by labourers whose contracts under Act VI have expired, as well as by free labourers when they reach the gardens. Such labourers are usually given all the privileges which contracts under Act VI require. The manner in which the Act was worked continued to offer a gratifying testimony to the general good sense and good feeling which marked the relations between employers and employed in the tea districts

Vital Statistics.

207. The recorded birth-rate was 27·6 per mille calculated on the total strength of the coolie population, and 93·5 per mille on the adult female population. The registered death-rate of the labour force as a whole decreased from 26·5 per mille to 24·7, the number of deaths being 19,947 against 20,573. The rate among adults was 28·3 as against 30·7 in the preceding year.

Miscellaneous.

208. In 18 complaints of ill-treatment, one of which was pending from the year before, made by coolies against their employers, 2 were found to be true. Applications for discharge certificates were successful in 236 cases. Managers instituted 1,062 cases under Act XIII of 1859 during the year. Of these, 441 were decided in favour of the complainants. Six cases of riot or unlawful assembly and five charges of assault were instituted by Managers. At the close of the year the area

of Government land settled direct with time-expired coolies was 196,231 acres. In the district of Lakhimpur 6,986 acres of land were settled with planters on special terms to enable them to allow their coolies to cultivate. In addition to the land held direct from Government, *ex*-coolies also occupy large tracts as sub-tenants. The relations between planters and the neighbouring villagers were generally good.

SECTION 3.—Charitable Dispensaries.

[*See* Dispensary Returns of the Province of Assam, 1912.]

Dispensaries.

209. At the close of the year there were 205 hospitals and dispensaries working in the province, 123 being supported by local bodies, 15 by private persons or missionary bodies, and the rest by the State.

The number of patients treated was 1,539,305 in 1912 against 1,416,555 in the previous year. Ten of the dispensaries treated more than 20,000 patients each and twelve between 15,000 and 20,000.

Seven hundred and twenty beds were available for in-door patients, and the total number of in-patients treated was 8,754.

The establishment of two travelling dispensaries—one in Kamrup and the other in Sylhet—was sanctioned during the year. A proposal for opening 17 more has since been sanctioned. The scheme for providing each district and subdivisional headquarters with an Assistant Surgeon made good progress and at the end of the year only three subdivisions remained without such officers. There was a large increase in the number of patients treated at *hâts*.

Leper Asylum

210. In the Leper Asylum at Sylhet, which is the only institution of its kind in the province, 25 patients were under treatment at the close of the year. The daily average number of patients treated rose from 21·01 in 1911 to 24·70 in 1912. The treatment by Nastin was continued. Administrative approval has been accorded to the reconstruction and enlargement, at an estimated cost of Rs. 44,970, of the Sylhet Leper Asylum and meanwhile additional temporary accommodation is being provided.

SECTION 4.—Lunatic Asylums.

(*See* Statistical Returns of the Lunatic Asylum in Assam for the year 1912.)

Asylum population.

211. During the year 1912, 60 patients were admitted and 6 re-admitted into the Tezpur Lunatic Asylum. The number of discharges (including 2 escapes) was 22, while 47 inmates died in the Asylum, the year closing with 229 insane persons under confinement. More than one-third of the inmates were criminal lunatics. As usual, cultivators and tea-garden coolies constituted the majority of the admissions. About 52 per cent. of the inmates remaining at the close of the year were suffering from mania and 39 per cent. from melancholia. The predisposing cause was not given in 64 out of a total of 66 cases and the exciting cause was not ascertained in 47. Heredity was the predisposing cause in 2 cases. *Ganja, charas or bhang* are reported to have been the exciting cause in 6 cases, fever in 3, epilepsy in 5, previous attack in 2, and alcohol, senility and valvular heart disease in 1 each.

Health of the inmates.

212. The number of admissions to hospital was 202 against 149 in the previous year. The number of deaths was also greater, being 47 against 23 in 1911. The chief causes of death in the Asylum during the year under report were tubercle of the lungs and intestines (23), anæmia (10), dysentery (4), epilepsy (3), pneumonia (2) and old age and general debility (2). The heavy death-rate from tubercle of the lungs and intestines was undoubtedly due to some extent to overcrowding and the absence of any means of segregation for infectious cases. In September 1912 a thatched building to accommodate 17 tubercular patients was erected outside the Asylum and 13 patients are now occupying it. Two more tubercle wards to provide accommodation for 16 males and 8 females have since been constructed and are occupied. These with four temporary barracks which are being constructed will relieve the overcrowding, and will provide sufficient accommodation for lunatics from the whole province. Since the close of the year it has been decided that criminal lunatics from the Surma Valley, who formerly were sent to Dacca Asylum, should be accommodated at Tezpur. A scheme for the reconstruction and enlargement of the permanent buildings has been administratively approved.

Cost of maintenance.

213. The average annual cost of maintaining each lunatic was Rs. 104-14-10 or Rs. 6-10 in excess of the cost in the previous year. The increase was due to higher cost under diet, establishment, clothing and bedding and contingencies.

SECTION 5.—Sanitation.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Assam for 1912.]

Municipal Expenditure.

214. The aggregate income of Municipal institutions, excluding opening balances, was Rs. 5,28,160, against Rs. 5,36,892 of 1911. The total expenditure incurred on sanitation was Rs. 2,84,513.

Sanitary works and schemes.

215. On the recommendation of the Gauhati Water-Works Committee a loan of Rs. 10,000 and a grant of Rs. 6,500 were made to that municipality for the execution of certain improvements to the water-works. Grants of Rs. 28,244 and Rs. 22,961 were made to the Dhubri Municipality and the Golaghat Union, respectively, for the improvement of the water-supply of those towns. The Silchar water-supply scheme has been administratively approved by Government and a grant of Rs. 76,658 made to the Municipality, but the detailed scheme has not yet received the approval of Government. A number of other schemes for municipal water-supply and drainage were initiated as the result of the Chief Commissioner's tour. Local Boards spent Rs. 96,308 on sanitation, mainly on the improvement of rural water-supplies. As usual, Local Boards received help from the Sanitary Board and a sum of Rs. 50,923 was distributed by it to them. Of this, Rs. 2,680 went to the Surma Valley Boards and Rs. 48,243 to the Assam Valley Boards. The Gauhati Local Board's five-year scheme for improving the water-supply is approaching completion and fifty-nine new tanks and five new wells have been constructed and ten old tanks re-excavated. Similar schemes initiated by the Barpeta and Mangaldai Boards have been sanctioned and are in progress. As the result of a conference held after the close of the year under review, a sum of Rs. 1,90,000 was distributed among Local Boards for expenditure in 1913-14 and all Boards have been asked to draw up five-year programmes for improving the water-supply of the areas under their control. An experiment was made in issuing grants to villages through selected Local Boards for improving sanitation and general cleanliness ; the results of the first year's working were hopeful and the experiment will be continued in a rather larger way.

Sale of quinine.

216. A most satisfactory increase in the sale of quinine treatments took place throughout the year, 20,360 more treatments being sold than in the previous year. In certain areas *kala-azar* showed renewed activity. Captain Mackie is enquiring into the etiology of the disease and a survey is being carried out by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner with a staff of two Assistant Surgeons and fourteen Sub-Assistant Surgeons. The complete results are not yet available, but there seems to have been a distinct recrudescence in parts of the Nowgong, Kamrup and Goalpara districts and in the Mangaldai subdivision. An encouraging feature however is the success which has attended the measures taken for controlling the disease in the Golaghat subdivision. Enquiry into the prevalence of leprosy in Goalpara was completed ; the frequency of the disease in the Goalpara subdivision is undeniable, and it is probable that it is equally prevalent in the surrounding country. A scheme for the construction of an enlarged leper Asylum at Sylhet has been administratively sanctioned and the detailed project is under preparation. When this is completed, it will be possible to send to this Asylum all the patients who desire modern treatment which holds out a reasonable hope of cure for early cases and arrest of the disease in non-advanced stages.

SECTION 6.—Vaccination.

(*See* Vaccination Returns of the Province of Assam for the year 1912-13.)

217. Vaccinations are performed by 330 departmental vaccinators and by garden doctors on tea gardens. The number of operations during the year was 333,363, against 305,845 during the previous year, the increase occurring mainly in the Sylhet, Kamrup, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Cachar districts. The percentage of success in operations by departmental vaccinators, who performed by far the greatest portion of the work, was 97·92 per cent. in primary vaccinations and 73·01 in re-vaccinations. Deaths from small-pox amounted to ·67 per mille against ·35 in the previous year.

The inspecting staff consisted of 9 Inspectors and 18 Sub-Inspectors who inspected 60·26 per cent. of the primary vaccinations and 49·80 per cent. of the re-vaccinations. Civil Surgeons inspected 5·51 and 2·45 per cent. of the primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations, respectively, during the year 1912.

The percentage of available children vaccinated in the towns in which the Vaccination Act is in force was 62 per cent. against 79 per cent. in the previous year. This is unsatisfactory. In the districts, however, good progress was made and there was a general increase in the number of vaccinations. The gradual removal of the prejudice against vaccination among the Mahapurushias was a satisfactory feature of the year.

As in previous years, all vaccination operations were performed with glycerinated lymph manufactured by the Shillong Vaccine Depôt, which continues also to supply lymph to the Eastern Bengal districts.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

Section 1.—General system of Public Instruction.

(*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 121—123.)

SECTION 2.—Education.

[*See* General Report on Public Instruction in Assam for the year 1912-13, and Statistics of British India, Part VII.]

General.

218. Considerable grants were received from the Government of India during the year, including the share falling to Assam of the grant of Rs. 50,00,000 for popular education announced by His Majesty the King-Emperor at Delhi.

The total expenditure on public instruction rose from Rs. 16,09,062 in 1911-12 to Rs. 19,03,954 in the year under report. The main burden of the increase fell on public revenues, but there was a considerable increase also in Local Board expenditure, in fee receipts and in subscriptions. The increased expenditure was accompanied by general advance.

The number of pupils in attendance rose from 182,112 to 194,288 or by 6·7 per cent. The percentage of male pupils in all classes of educational institutions to the male population of school-going age was 32·04 against 30·4 in the preceding year and of female pupils 3·79 against 3·6.

Collegiate education.

219. The number of students in the two Assam colleges rose from 295 to 360. Liberal schemes were initiated for the development of both colleges. It is hoped that before long Assam will be educating within its own borders a sufficient number of University students to render it independent of the neighbouring provinces for its supply of men qualified for the liberal professions and the administrative service of the State.

The growing popularity of the hostel system continued; the number of students in residence rose from 124 to 196.

Secondary education.

220. The number of high schools was 29 against 28 in the previous year, the increase being due to the raising of the status of the Mission girls' school at Silchar. The number of pupils rose from 8,924 to 10,337, an increase which would have been more marked had the accommodation of the schools permitted. In pursuance of the policy of the Local Administration of having a Government High school at each Subdivisional headquarters negotiations were entered into for the transfer of the majority of the aided institutions to State control. The policy of improvement extended also to the unaided schools. Concurrently action has been proceeding for the improvement of the existing Government High schools in their staffs, buildings and hostels.

The success of the candidates at the Matriculation examination was on the whole satisfactory, 289 candidates against 262 in the preceding year having been passed by the University examiners. The progress has been steady, and it is gratifying to note that it has been accompanied by an equal steady advance in the percentage of success.

The increase in the demand for English education is most strongly manifested in the returns for Middle English schools which increased in number from 95 with an attendance of 10,922 to 102 with an attendance of 12,638, the number of unaided schools rising from 16 to 21.

Middle Vernacular education did not share in the general progress. The number of schools and pupils remaining almost stationary—36 schools with 2,796 pupils enrolled as against 35 and 2,753 in the previous year. The unpopularity of vernacular institutions beyond the Lower Primary stage is not unnatural. The course leads nowhere except to the poorly paid occupation of vernacular teaching. Proposals were considered during the year for employing a portion of the Coronation grant received from the Government of India in abolishing the payment of fees in Upper Primary and Middle Vernacular schools, and for removing other disabilities affecting vernacular education beyond the Lower Primary standard.

Primary education.

221. Primary schools for boys increased from 3,469 to 3,534 and their pupils from 141,748 to 148,278. Expenditure rose from Rs. 4,87,083 to Rs. 5,02,079. The Imperial subsidy was spent during the year on the improvement of buildings and equipment.

Institutions for training of teachers.

222. The system of training remained unchanged. There were 3 normal schools and 6 elementary training schools. The number of pupils in the training schools and classes was 361 against 402 in the previous year, and the returns of trained teachers show an increase from 2,017 to 2,109.

There is no institution in Assam for the training of female teachers.

Law class.

223. The number of Law students in the single Law class at Gauhati was 13 against 14 in the preceding year. The expenditure was Rs. 563 against Rs. 340 in the previous year.

Medical school.

224. The number of students in the Berry-White School was 135 against 108 in the previous year. The number of Muhammadans increased from 16 to 20 and of hill men from 10 to 13. Of the Hindu and Muhammadan pupils 63 against 51 in the previous year were from the Assam Valley. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 24,745 to Rs. 29,214.

Technical and Industrial Schools.

225. There is little to be said in regard to technical and industrial instruction in Assam, effort being at present confined to a few schools for teaching blacksmithy and carpentry, and the grant of a number of scholarships and apprenticeship stipends.

Tols.

226. The decline in the number of tols was not continued. The number of tols rose from 54 to 61 and of tol pupils from 1,237 to 1,249, and this, despite the fact that the knowledge of Sanskrit is losing in public estimation and that no measures of encouragement were taken by the Administration during the year. Action in this regard was in suspense, pending the outcome of deliberations in Bengal in regard to the re-organization of the Dacca Saraswat Samaj.

Madrasa.

227. Madrasa education remains popular with the more orthodox Muhammadans and the year showed an increase in the enrolment. This is a matter for congratulation only in so far as it betokens a growing interest in education. It would be to the advantage of the community if the interest were diverted to more fruitful fields than that of the belated Islamic culture which the present Madrasas afford. The standard of instruction in Madrasas is low, the courses orthodox with a conservatism long out of date, the education imparted of little or no advantage except to the small percentage of the pupils who pursue the course to its close in the hope of securing positions as Maulvis, etc.; and even to these pupils the Madrasas fail to impart a sound Islamic training. As in the case of Sanskrit education, reform in Assam has awaited the outcome of deliberations in Bengal—the decision to be come to with regard to the establishment of a Department of Islamic studies in the new University of Dacca. The establishment of a Government Madrasa at Sylhet, which was sanctioned in course of the year, will, it is hoped, provide satisfactorily for the maintenance of Islamic learning and permit of the conversion of a number of the existing Madrasas into more efficient and more useful institutions.

Female education.

228. At the close of the year 3·7 per cent. of the girls of Assam were attending recognized schools, a slight advance on the previous year's percentage of 3·4. The total number of such schools for girls rose from 252 to 268.—figures for attendance showed an actual increase of 1,154 girls or, roughly, 6½ per cent. The total number of girls reading in recognized schools, including those in boys' schools, was 19,085 against 17,931 in the previous year. This is a fairly satisfactory increase, but no great advance can be expected until there is a sensible change in the attitude of the people to the seclusion and early marriage of females. The people of the Hills are more liberal in this respect than their brethren of the plains. The Khasi and Jaintia Hills District continues to have by far the largest proportion of its girls at school.

Advance has been most rapid in those schools which are primarily intended for girls. Co-education beyond the most elementary stage is at present impossible. A scheme was presented for the opening of 50 new girls' schools in places where the attendance of girls in mixed schools was such as to justify the hope that the schools would not fail for want of a sufficiency of pupils. Action was taken during the year to advance the headquarters girls' schools where possible to the Middle English standard, and one Middle English school in the plains opened the first class of the High school stage of instruction.

European education.

229. There are two European schools in Assam, one a Government school, the other a Convent school, both primarily for girls, but taking in little boys also up to the age of ten years. Considerable improvements were effected in the Government school in the matter of staff, salaries, buildings, and organization. The Convent school, hitherto unaided, was given a liberal grant for the enlargement of its buildings, and a scheme was put in hand for the improvement of the staff, with the assistance of a maintenance grant from public revenues, to enable the school to secure the recognition of the Cambridge Syndicate for the purposes of the Junior School Leaving Certificate examination. Negotiations were in progress for the establishment of two new schools, an elementary school for the poorer classes in Haflong, and a secondary boys' school in Shillong.

230. The number of Muhammadan students at college in Assam was 39 against 27 in the previous year. The following statement shows the increase in the number of Muhammadan pupils in the various classes of recognized schools :— Muhammadan education.

	1911-12.	1912-13.	Percentage of increase.
1	2	3	4
High schools	1,702	1,922	12·9
Middle English schools	2,307	2,729	18·3
Vernacular schools	495	471	—·5
Primary schools	34,014	35,619	4·7

231. Progress in the education of most of the hill peoples and of the backward classes has been maintained. In the case of the North Cachar and the Naga Hills, owing to the diversity of tribes and languages, the policy of educating the people in and through the medium of the tribal language or languages has stood in the way of advance. Certain of the lower Hindu castes are awaking to the advantages of education, and measures were proposed during the year to help them on the path of progress. Backward classes.

232. The scheme for the education of the children of tea-garden coolies did not make satisfactory progress. Children of tea-garden coolies.

233. The conduct of pupils and students in schools and colleges was not on the whole unsatisfactory. But there were a number of grave offences against decency, and as in the previous year, an attempt was made, this time fortunately only partially successful, to destroy the buildings of one of the High schools by fire. Discipline.

SECTION 3.—Literature and the Press.

(*See* Statistics of British India, Part VII, Educational.)

234. The total number of publications registered during the year under Act XXV of 1867, as amended by Act X of 1890, was 44 against 37 in the preceding year. Of these, 9 were educational and 35 non-educational works. Thirty-four were first editions, 9 were republications and one was a translation; 13 of these books were in Bengali, 11 were in Assamese, 9 were in Khasi, 2 in Nagri and one was in Arabic-Nagri. These publications do not represent the whole literary output of the province as books by Assamese authors are printed and registered outside the province, *e.g.*, in Calcutta and Dacca. Publications registered.

The publications registered during the year are classified as below according to the subject dealt with :—

Drama	1
Geography	1
General School Books	4
Law	1
Mathematics	2
Miscellaneous	6
Periodicals	3
Poetry	7
Religion	19
Total ...	44

No book was received under any of the heads Science, Philosophy, Fiction and History.

A new periodical was registered during the year—the "Arjya Darpan," published monthly at Jorhat, in Bengali.

235. One English, one Anglo-Vernacular, and twelve vernacular newspapers were published during the year. The tone of the press was generally unobjectionable. Newspapers.

SECTION 4.—Scientific and Literary Societies.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—Arts and Sciences.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII—ARCHÆOLOGY.

236. Twenty-eight monuments had been declared as protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, VII of 1904, up to the end of 1911-12. Among the most interesting are the rock inscriptions at the foot of the Kamakhya Hill near Gauhati, the dargah of Shah Jallal at Sylhet, the copper temple near Sadiya, the Kachari ruins at Dimapur, the rock-cut temple at Maibang, the ruins of the Ahom palaces at Rangpur and Garhgaon in Sibsagar, and the temples at Jaisagar and Gaurisagar.

During the year the three temples at Sibsagar which were built by Rani Ambica, the second wife of the Ahom King Sib Singh, in the first half of the 18th century, and the Rangnath Dole at Rangpur, the Ahom capital, were declared as protected monuments under the Act.

The question of the preservation of the stone carvings at Tezpur, the remains, according to tradition, of the palace of Ban Daitya, King of Sonitpur, engaged the attention of the Chief Commissioner. A strong committee has been appointed since the close of the year to advise on the scheme of preservation to be adopted.

Special repairs were carried out by the Public Works Department to the Sivadole temple at Negriting and the Bishnudole temple at Jaisagar at a cost of Rs. 385 and Rs. 379, respectively, and a sum of Rs. 1,056 was spent on repairs to the Kachari monuments at Dimapur.

CHAPTER IX—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

(*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, page 128.)

SECTION 2.—Ecclesiastical.

237. The Ecclesiastical establishment of the Province, paid entirely or in part by this Administration, consisted of the Chaplains at Shillong, Silchar, Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The incomes of the Chaplains at the four last-mentioned stations are supplemented by private subscriptions or contributions from Missionary Societies. The Chaplaincy of Darrang has been vacant since June 1912. The Chaplain of Shillong visited regularly once a quarter the outstations of Gauhati and Dhubri and made a tour in the Naga Hills and Manipur in January 1913. He also visited Cherrapunjee and Goalpara for the purpose of inspecting the cemeteries.

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

238. The total value of Stationery supplied to this Province in 1912-13 was Rs. 47,026, including Rs. 12,179, the value of articles supplied to the Secretariat Press at Shillong.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

PRINTING.

239. The cash receipts of the Secretariat Press amounted to Rs. 2,725 and the total expenditure to Rs. 1,46,714. The value of the outturn exceeded the actual amount paid to the workmen by Rs. 3,095.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Assam, for 1912-13.]

Treatment of diseases.

240. There was a satisfactory reduction in the mortality of cattle from contagious diseases inspite of an unusually severe outbreak of rinderpest in the Dibrugarh subdivision. There was a corresponding decrease in the number of cases treated for contagious diseases. That the general public are beginning to appreciate better the work of the Department is shown by the increase of 39 per cent. in the number of cases treated by itinerary assistants for non-contagious diseases.

Report on outbreaks.

241. With a view to securing speedier and more complete information regarding the outbreak of cattle-disease, an attempt has been made to enlist the services of touring officers of other departments, village officials, tea-garden managers and other private persons.

Breeding operations.

242. The question of the improvement of the breed of cattle is still awaiting the report of the special officer appointed to consider the subject by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

General.

243. Two Veterinary Inspectors were employed throughout the year 1912. As the charges in the Brahmaputra Valley were found to be too large for efficient work, a third Inspector was appointed in January last. The staff employed at the close of the year consisted of 29 Veterinary Assistants against 24 in the previous year. The sanctioned staff is 51, comprising 38 Assistants for plains districts, 5 for hill districts, 2 Staff Assistants and 6 Reserve Assistants. Since the close of the year an annual contribution of Rs. 1,000 from Provincial funds has been granted to each of the Local Boards of Barpeta, Goalpara, Mangaldai, Golaghat, North Lakhimpur and Hailakandi in order to cover the cost of the entertainment of a second Itinerary Assistant, but candidates for the posts are not yet forthcoming. As it has been found that the present pay does not attract sufficient candidates, proposals for improving the prospects of the service are under consideration.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM, 1913-1914.

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PART I.

SUMMARY.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTARTION OF ASSAM

FOR

1913-14.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM.

Tours. 1. The Chief Commissioner left Shillong on the 3rd July 1913 for Golaghat, where he halted for two days and afterwards proceeded to Sibsagar, where a halt of three days was made. At Golaghat in the addresses presented by the Local Board and Golaghat Union, emphasis was laid on the prevalence of *kala-azar* in the subdivision and the necessity of an increase in the number of dispensaries. In his reply the Chief Commissioner assured the people that neither trouble nor money would be spared to combat the disease. Addresses were also presented at Sibsagar and Nazira through which the Chief Commissioner passed on his way to Doom Dooma. From Doom Dooma the Chief Commissioner proceeded to Dibrugarh, where a halt was made for three days, before going down the Brahmaputra to Mangaldai and Barpeta. At both of these places addresses were presented, dealing mainly with the improvement of communications and water-supply. The Chief Commissioner then returned to Shillong *viâ* Gauhati, arriving on the 3rd August.

In September the Chief Commissioner paid a short visit to Gauhati in order to attend an Education Conference there.

Sir Archdale Earle left Shillong on the 7th November 1913, on a visit to Manipur. A halt was made at Kohima for three days, and Imphal was reached on the 14th. After an interesting stay of ten days in Manipur the Chief Commissioner returned by the same route to Shillong.

For his second cold weather tour the Chief Commissioner left Shillong on the 10th December for the Abor country, proceeding as far up as Yembung with the Political Officer. Various points of local interest were discussed; the spot where Mr. Noël Williamson was murdered was visited, and the question of the erection of a suitable memorial was raised. After spending Christmas in the Abor Country, Sir Archdale Earle returned to Shillong on the last day of December.

At the beginning of February 1914 the Chief Commissioner left for the Garo Hills, arriving at Tura on the 9th where addresses were presented. After a halt of four days at Tura, the Chief Commissioner made a short tour in the district of Goalpara and then returned to Shillong.

All the various points raised in addresses presented to the Chief Commissioner have been dealt with by him, and progress has been made in such schemes as originated from them.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the Administration.

2. A Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs was appointed in May 1913, and in April 1914 the judicial staff of the province was strengthened further by the temporary appointment of a Subordinate Judge and Assistant Sessions Judge for the Assam Valley districts.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Manipur.

3. Deficient rain at the time of transplanting and hailstorms later in the year damaged the rice crops of the valley, but the plague of rats ceased and the people in the hills to the south-west have begun already to repay their advances.

The *pothang* system of unpaid State labour was abolished and extra taxes were imposed to meet the expenses thus incurred by the State. There was a considerable agitation against these taxes, but it ceased on the imprisonment of the ring-leaders and great improvements were made to roads and schools out of the proceeds of the special taxes.

The ordinary revenue of the State rose from Rs. 5,08,133 to Rs. 5,10,595 and was increased further to Rs. 5,91,327 by the revenue derived from the *pothang* taxes. A further loan of Rs. 75,000 was raised for the Imphal water-works which were completed during the year. Gross expenditure rose from Rs. 6,22,731 to Rs. 6,33,455.

Frontier tribes.

4. Promenades were made in the Mishmi, Aka and Dafla countries and the Lohit Valley road was extended to Theronliang. Visits were paid by British officers to Dhirang Jong, Towang and Rima in Tibet, and after the conclusion of the Dibong survey operations, survey and exploration work was also done in southern Tibet. The Daflas offered some opposition to the promenade through their country, but, otherwise, relations with the frontier tribes were friendly, and the Abors in particular are reported to be bringing their disputes in increasing numbers for settlement by the Assistant Political Officer at Pasighat.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the people.

5. Floods in June and July did much damage in the Surma Valley and agricultural loans and gratuitous relief had to be given. In the Assam Valley the year was, on the whole, normal, but winter crops were not good in Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong. In the hill districts the weather was favourable and good harvests were realised, except in the North Cachar Hills where untimely rain and drought caused a partial failure of crops.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Realisation of the revenue.

6. There was an increase of 87 square miles to the settled area and the land revenue demand rose by Rs. 96,379 to Rs. 71,85,116. Since the close of the year various changes have been introduced in order to facilitate collection of arrear revenue and to improve the status of mauzadars. The demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue rose to Rs. 7,14,869, of which 99·83 per cent. was collected. Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act Rs. 3,11,806 were advanced during the year, the major part being given to cultivators in the Surma Valley, where floods damaged crops and caused some loss of cattle.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and Settlements.

7. A Second Assistant Director of Surveys was appointed with headquarters at Shillong and a combined land surveying school was opened at Jhalukbari near Gauhati. Work during the year consisted mainly in traverse surveys of tea-garden grants and of extension villages and in the relaying of *thak* and other boundaries. The Shillong Drawing office printed for Assam 64,471 copies of maps.

The resettlement of the Dibrugarh town was carried out during the year in accordance with the orders issued in September 1913, sanctioning the classification of sites and rates of assessment, and the final report was ready in February 1914. The survey and settlement of Guma in the Eastern Duars of Goalpara was taken up; but good progress was not made owing to the illness of the Sub-Deputy Collector in charge. Resettlement operations in the district of Cachar are in progress: most of the survey correction has been completed, and the Settlement Officer has recently submitted his proposals for soil factors to be applied to the various classes of land sanctioned. Arrangements for the experimental survey and record-of-rights in a compact area, consisting of three parganas of the Sylhet district, referred to in paragraph 7 of the last report, were made, and the Settlement Officer designate for the area was deputed from November 1913 to undergo a course of training under the Settlement Officer, Dacca.

Besides the above, the survey and settlement of some small areas in Sylhet, known as the *nankar patwarigiri*, etc., were completed during the year.

LAND RECORDS.

Land Records.

8. Proposals, which have since been sanctioned, were submitted to subdivide a circle in Nowgong into two. Further progress was made in respect of the policy of substituting resident for non-resident mandals. The number of supervisor kanungos' sub-circles was increased by three.

SETTLEMENT FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlement for special cultivation.

9. The area settled for special cultivation increased by 15,450 acres and the revenue therefrom by Rs. 12,029.

WARDS' ESTATES.

Wards' estates.

10. The management of one new estate in Sylhet was undertaken during the year. The debts of three estates were reduced appreciably and negotiations were started for consolidating the debts of one of them by raising a loan from the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. The management of the estates was conducted with marked efficiency, but its cost rose from 16 to 20 per cent. of the current demand.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

11. Cultivators in the Surma Valley suffered severely from floods in June and July, and in some districts of the Assam Valley winter crops were not good. There was however a strong demand for rice from other provinces, where scarcity prevailed, and cultivators benefited by the consequent rise in prices.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Legislation.

12. The Legislative Council undertook no legislation during the year. The formation of several new Municipalities in Sylhet and the needs of Jorhat, as the headquarters of the Sibsagar district, led to the extension of various Acts relating to municipalities and towns.

POLICE.

Military Police.

13. The headquarters of the Lakhimpur battalion were moved to Sadiya and Dibrugarh was chosen as the headquarters of the new battalion, with which the Garo Hills' detachment was amalgamated.

Discipline and smartness suffered from the constant detachment of small parties of men under non-commissioned officers during the operations of the last two years and from the presence of a large number of recruits, but the force has undoubtedly gained in military efficiency by its experience of active service.

Escort work was performed in the Aka country and in the North-East Frontier.

Civil Police. 14. The process of reorganising the district police was continued. Discipline and efficiency still left much to be desired, but some improvement was made by increased attention to drill. The work of Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors was better than in the previous year. Good results were obtained by appointing havildars of military police as Sub-Inspectors of the armed reserve. The ordinary reserve still proved to be inadequate for its duties. Seventy-five criminal charges were brought against the police, but only 15 resulted in conviction. Three cases, however, were pending at the close of the year.

Crime. There was an increase of 2,288 in reported cases of cognizable crime. Of those investigated by the police, 39·7 per cent. were brought to trial and in 81·8 per cent. of these convictions were secured. The operations of gangs of up-country criminals were an object of special attention in the Assam Valley, and in the Surma Valley endeavours were made to prevent riots by issuing formal notices to landlords that they would be held responsible.

The year was marked by an attempt to assassinate Mr. Gordon, Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar, by means of a picric acid bomb. The bomb exploded prematurely and killed the assassin. His identity had not been established by the close of the year.

Finance. The nett cost of the department rose from Rs. 20,47,895 in 1912 to Rs. 23,24,281 in 1913.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Plains Districts. 15. Two stipendiary Magistrates were added to the judicial staff. The number of offences reported rose from 39,174 in 1912, to 41,767 in 1913 and the number of cases brought to trial from 17,422 to 19,520, but the percentage of convictions fell from 44·6 to 42·7.

In Sessions Courts 322 persons were convicted, 106 discharged or acquitted and 10 referred for orders of the High Court.

The sentences of subordinate courts were confirmed on appeal in 81·2 per cent. of the cases by High Court, in 62·7 per cent. by the Sessions Courts and in 67·3 per cent. by District Magistrates.

Charges incurred in criminal courts amounted to Rs. 3,76,492 and receipts to Rs. 2,19,990.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts. In hill districts and frontier tracts 1,220 persons were convicted in 1,260 cases involving 1,701 persons.

JAILS.

Jails. 16. The daily average population rose from 1,828·23 to 1,917·91 and the death-rate reached the high figure of 40·67 per mille. It would appear that a very large proportion of prisoners in Assam are in bad health on admission to jail and that dysentery, which accounted for 27 per cent. of the deaths, forms the last stage in a case of ankylostome infection, which is so prevalent in the province. Defective ventilation, however, and overcrowding in sub-jails were found to be not uncommon. Proposals are being submitted for the improvement of ventilation and for better sanitary and medical equipment in jails, and the Local Administration has issued orders regulating the transfer of prisoners from sub-jails so as to prevent overcrowding.

Profits exceeded those of 1912, but, owing to large cash drafts and unsold stocks of manufactured goods, cash earnings showed a considerable decrease. The net cost per head of average strength rose from Rs. 80-15-0 to Rs. 86-1-0.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Plains Districts. 17. The number of original suits instituted rose to 41,139 and of suits for disposal to 51,656. Institutions and disposals increased in the Surma Valley and decreased in the Assam Valley, and in both valleys there was an increase in the average duration of suits.

There were 26,721 applications for executing decrees and 3,744 miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature.

In appellate cases 82·8 per cent. of the decisions were confirmed by the High Court and 71·9 per cent. by other appellate courts. In the other appellate courts the ratio of disposals to the total number of appeals fell from 66·81 per cent. in 1912 to 36·77 per cent. in 1913.

Receipts from Civil Courts amounted to Rs. 6,20,880 and charges to Rs. 2,86,767.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

In hill districts and frontier tracts 1,622 suits and 42 appeals were decided, the decision of the lower courts being upheld on appeal in 42·8 per cent. of the cases.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

18. One new office was opened temporarily and registrations rose from 74,239 to 80,076. Receipts amounted to Rs. 1,00,958 and expenditure to Rs. 57,868.

There was an increase of 1,445 in the number of ceremonies registered by Muhammadan Marriage Registrars.

Fifteen new companies were registered and at the close of the year there were in the province 71 registered companies with an aggregate paid up capital of Rs. 12,84,084.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Municipalities.

19. Income and expenditure increased and there was a further satisfactory rise in incidence of taxation per head of population. Three new municipalities were formed in the Sylhet district and entered on their duties with keen interest. The year on the whole was one of preparation. Schemes for extensive improvements to water-supply, conservancy and drainage were submitted from Silchar, Sylhet, Karimganj, Gauhati, Tezpur, Dhubri and Dibrugarh. The detailed estimates of the Silchar water-works, rough projects for water-works at Sylhet, Tezpur and Dhubri, and schemes for the improvement of the conservancy arrangements at Sylhet and Dibrugarh have been approved by the Local Administration since the close of the year.

Local Boards.

20. Two members were added to the Silchar Board, one to represent the tea industry and the other the rural community. The aggregate income of the Boards expanded by nearly 9 lakhs owing to the allotment of further grants for communications, water-supply and education.

Fees were abolished in vernacular schools and there was an immediate increase in the number of pupils attending middle vernacular schools. The pay of teachers in primary schools was also raised. Expenditure on medical relief rose by nearly Rs. 37,000, and one more dispensary was established. The development of the scheme for travelling dispensaries maintained by Government should to some extent relieve Boards of the necessity for adding to the number of their dispensaries, but they need further assistance even to maintain an adequately high standard in their existing dispensaries.

The experiment of allotting small sums to selected villages for sanitary improvement was repeated successfully and will now be succeeded by a tentative organisation of village authorities in selected circles. A scheme for the systematic improvement of the rural water-supply was also initiated as a result of a conference held in June 1913. A sum of Rs. 10,000 was allotted to each Board for expenditure during the year and Boards were further directed to submit programmes of work for five years.

A second special grant of 10 lakhs was also made to Local Boards for improving communications. Out of this grant and the grant made in 1912 allotments aggregating Rs. 10,79,385 were distributed during the year. Expenditure on public works consequently rose from Rs. 12,35,539 in 1912-13 to Rs. 19,44,001. This result reflects credit on the Local Boards and communications have been improved materially. Much, however, remains to be done before they will be adequate to the needs of the province.

Since the close of the year a Local Self-Government Bill has been introduced in the Legislative Council.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

21. An Agricultural Supervisor and two probationary District Agricultural Officers were at work throughout the year and an Agricultural Chemist and an Entomological Assistant were appointed towards its close. A station for experiments with sugarcane was opened at Khagrabari in Kamrup and arrangements were made to plant out sugarcane on a large scale. At Karimganj a new station was opened and experiments started on the line breeding of rice.

Striking results were obtained at Jorhat from the use of ground limestone with green manure, and the exotic types of sugarcane, mentioned in the report for the previous year, again demonstrated their superiority over local varieties. Demonstrations were made in various districts in the use of manures, in the budding and grafting of fruits and in the superiority of iron roller mills for crushing sugarcane and of improved types of looms for weaving.

A most satisfactory advance was made towards closer connection with co-operative societies. Seeds and iron roller mills were supplied to some societies, two weaving societies were formed and the bye-laws of some credit societies were altered to admit of co-operative purchase and sale.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Societies.

22. There was a further increase in the number of societies from 188 with 10,945 members to 219 with 13,623 members and their aggregate working capital also rose from Rs. 5,56,098 to Rs. 6,84,805. Societies were still mainly of the credit type and issued the major portion of their loans for the repayment of old debts. This is a necessary preliminary to more directly productive forms of activity and the formation during the year of two weaving societies and one dairy society, the alteration of the bye-laws of some societies to admit of co-operative sale and purchase and the purchase by some other societies of iron roller mills for crushing sugarcane show that an advance is being made towards a higher type and that the wider possibilities of co-operation are gaining recognition.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and Crops.

23. The rainfall of the year was slightly below normal except in the Surma Valley, where it was in marked excess in the first quarter of the year and caused heavy floods in July. The outturn of rice fell short of that of the previous year by 6,07,965 tons, and, as exports were again large, prices ruled high. The outturn of other crops showed but little variation from the figures for 1912-13. Favourable features of the year were the expansion of spring rice and jute cultivation in the Brahmaputra Valley and heavy deposits of silt in the Surma Valley during the floods of July.

FORESTS.

Forests.

24. The area of reserved forests remained unaltered, but unclassed State forests were reduced by 113 square miles. Extensive examinations of the latter class of forests, with the object of reservation, and the inadequacy in numbers and quality of the subordinate staff prevented sylvicultural and road-making operations of any magnitude being undertaken in reserved forests. Climbers however were cut over a considerable area and the introduction of steam traffic on the Kachugaon tramway should facilitate extraction of timber in the Goalpara division. Further experiments were also made to establish and extend *sál* and *simal* plantations, but definite results have not yet been achieved. The gross revenue of the department fell to Rs. 10,92,878 and expenditure rose to Rs. 9,16,657.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Tea.

25. The weather was favourable on the whole in the Assam Valley, but damage was caused in the Surma Valley by hail and floods. The outturn of tea however rose by ·46 per cent. to 199,721,950 lbs. and prices ruled high.

Mines. 26. Five prospecting licenses were issued for gold and allied minerals, tin and wolfram, coal and oil. The output of oil increased, but that of coal decreased and the amount realised as royalty fell from Rs. 64,204 to Rs. 59,434.

FACTORIES.

Factories. 27. At the close of the year there were 15 factories in the province employing 2,901 workers. Twelve of the factories were inspected and no adverse comments were made on them. No breaches of the law were reported.

TRADE.

Rail and River-borne Trade. 28. The volume of the trade of Assam with other provinces increased from 19,463,269 to 2,437,348 maunds, and its value from Rs. 18,86,22,669 to Rs. 21,19,44,888. The proportionate shares of the three trade blocks of the province, *viz.*, Upper Assam, Lower Assam and the Surma Valley, in the aggregate value of trade were 33·22, 15·89 and 42·89 per cent. respectively. About 70 per cent. of the total value of exports by rail and river represents the value of tea, of which about 44·8 per cent. was exported *vid* Chittagong. Floods in the Surma Valley did much damage to rice and jute crops, and the value of imported grain and pulse rose from Rs. 51·1 to Rs. 115·8 lakhs. Higher prices also accounted for a rise in the value, in spite of a decrease in the quantity of exported tea and rice. But the constant increase under all heads of import and export points to expanding trade and general prosperity in the province.

Frontier Trade. 29. The value of frontier trade registered was Rs. 34,87,814. Trade with Bhutan increased, but imports from other hill tribes decreased, mainly owing to the discontinuance of returns of imported rubber. There was a large increase in the export of opium to the Abor and Mishmi tribes.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Public Works. 30. The total expenditure on Provincial Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department amounted to Rs. 56,40,320. Of this, a sum of Rs. 9,27,847 was spent on Original Works in connection with provincial buildings and Rs. 1,89,188 on repairs. On Original Works Communications the expenditure was Rs. 25,55,653 and on maintenance Rs. 10,76,920.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross Revenue. 31. Gross receipts rose from Rs. 1,69,42,636 to Rs. 1,70,04,311 and gross expenditure from Rs. 1,44,18,765 to Rs. 1,86,79,558.

Provincial Finance. 32. The provincial account opened with a balance of Rs. 78,06,494, which included Imperial assignments for various purposes aggregating Rs. 48,55,000. Receipts amounted to Rs. 1,60,26,700, and expenditure to Rs. 1,82,96,971. Further Imperial assignments, amounting to Rs. 5,13,000, were received during the year and, with the unspent balance of the former assignments, accounted for Rs. 36,93,000 out of the closing balance of Rs. 55,36,223.

Salt. 33. The only warehouse in the province was at Ajmiriganj. Imports decreased by 3,603 maunds, clearances by 16,034 maunds and nett revenue by Rs. 13,420. The sale price of salt remained steady at Rs. 2-4-0 per maund.

Excise. 34. The revenue demand rose from Rs. 47,62,593 in 1912-13 to Rs. 52,51,867, mainly owing to a large increase in license fees realised at auctions in the Assam Valley. The consumption of country spirit, opium and *ganja* rose by 5·8, 2·4 and 6·02 per cent. respectively. The increase is ascribed mainly to greater prosperity and the growth of the immigrant population, but, in the case of opium, it was due partly to the operation of smugglers from Chittagong. Systematic smuggling on a large scale has not occurred hitherto under this Administration and careful watch will have to be kept. Various reforms in the way of raising the price of opium and *ganja* and the minimum age of purchasers and of limiting private possession have been introduced from April 1st, 1914. The hours of closing of excise shops have also been advanced and Local Boards will be used as advisory bodies in connection with rural shops.

Stamps. 35. Receipts under the Stamps and Court-fees Acts rose from Rs. 12,80,991 to Rs. 13,38,222, non-judicial stamps being responsible for 57·5 per cent. of the increase.

Income-tax. 36. Income-tax receipts yielded a normal increase of 6·4 per cent. and amounted to Rs. 4,27,968.

Land Revenue. 37. The ordinary land revenue demand rose from Rs. 74,55,474 to Rs. 75,11,733, and the miscellaneous land revenue demand rose to Rs. 7,14,869. Collections amounted to 96·22 and 99·83 per cent. respectively.

Local Rates. 38. The local rate demand amounted to Rs. 8,73,175, of which some 90·47 per cent. was collected.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics. 39. The birth-rate and death-rate for the year rose, respectively, to 33·06 and 27·66 per mille, but the excess of births over deaths fell to 5·4 per mille. In the Assam Valley the year was healthy on the whole, but floods in July and a subsequent rise in food prices caused unfavourable conditions in the Surma Valley.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

40. The Secretary of State found himself unable to accept the principles of the Bill to prevent the enticement of labour within the province, which was drafted by the Local Administration, and orders have not yet been received from the Government of India as to the date from which the labour districts provisions of Act VI of 1901, which affect only 1·9 per cent. of the adult labour force of the province, will now be withdrawn from the four upper districts of the Assam Valley.

The number of immigrants was again large and only 32 deaths occurred in transit. The mortality among labourers remained the same as in the previous year, but the birth-rate fell by 2·1 per mille. Coolies brought 8 charges of ill-treatment against their employers, and employers brought 16 cases of assault, unlawful assembly or rioting against coolies; but the relations between employers and labourers and between planters and villagers remained generally good.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable Dispensaries. 41. The total number of dispensaries at the close of the year was 225, and 1,595,380 patients were treated. Owing to lack of suitable applicants the cadre of Sub-Assistant Surgeons remained below strength and a small beginning only could be made with a scheme for providing 28 travelling dispensaries. Insanitary conditions were reported to prevail in many Local Board dispensaries. Improvement of existing dispensaries should precede any policy of expansion.

Lunatic Asylum. 42. At the close of the year there were 84 criminal and 156 non-criminal lunatics in the Tezpur Asylum. The provision of ample air space and of segregation sheds checked the mortality from tubercular diseases and the death-rate fell from 20·23 to 9·47 per cent. of the daily average strength.

Sanitation. 43. Municipal bodies spent Rs. 3,04,769 on sanitation. Good progress was made with projects for water-supply at Jorhat, Nowgong and Sibsagar, and with improvements at Gauhati. Arrangements for financing piped water-supply projects at Silchar and Sylhet have been sanctioned since the close of the year. The financial aspects of a similar scheme for Tezpur are still under examination.

Local Boards received Rs. 2,30,000 for improving rural water-supply during the year and were directed to submit programmes for systematic improvement during the next five years.

Removal of families from infected sites has proved successful in the treatment of *kala-azar*, and arrangements were made for travelling dispensaries in areas where this disease has been found to be endemic.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination. 44. The number of operations performed in the province rose from 333,363 in 1912-13 to 336,649 in 1913-14, but there was a marked decline in the Sylhet district. Inspection by Civil Surgeons was inadequate in some districts. The rate of mortality from small-pox was only ·40 per mille.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Education.

45. The most important features of the year's work were the abolition of all fees for vernacular education and the raising of the pay of primary school teachers. This policy met with success at once and the ratio of increase over the previous year in the numbers attending middle vernacular and primary schools rose from 1·56 and 4·60 per cent. in 1912-13 to 87·55 and 9·07 per cent. in 1913-14, while in the cases of middle English schools and of high schools it was 7·87 and 12·18 per cent., as against 14·97 and 15·83, respectively.

In female education also a marked advance was made, the number of girls attending schools rising from 19,085 to 22,747. Four schools were raised to the middle standard and two training classes for female teachers were opened.

The policy, mentioned in the report for the previous year, of assuming direct control of secondary education was carried on vigorously, and six aided high schools at subdivisional headquarters were taken over entirely by the provincial authorities.

Arrangements were also made to improve the staffs of high schools and to provide for their future development.

The number of students at colleges rose from 360 to 442. The affiliation of the colleges was extended and their accommodation, equipment and staffs were strengthened and improved. During the year sanction was received from the Secretary of State to the project for raising the Murarichand College to the status of a first-grade college.

The number of pupils at *tols* fell from 1,249 to 1,175 and there were 2,659 pupils at madrasas. The Government madrasa at Sylhet proved popular and had 110 pupils. A scheme for raising it to the senior standard was sanctioned.

The total expenditure of the department rose from Rs. 19,03,954 to Rs. 23,28,287.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature and the press.

46. The number of publications received and catalogued was 49 against 47 in the preceding year. Five weekly newspapers and 14 monthly periodicals were published during the year.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

47. Monuments already declared as protected were maintained by the Public Works Department and special repairs were made to the temple at Hajo and to the Ahom temples in the Sibsagar district. Another Ahom temple at Negriting, two inscribed stones recording the erection of a gateway at Maibong by the Kachari King Megha Narayan Debha in 1576A.D., and some ruined temples at Khaspur, the last independent capital of the Kachari Kings, were declared as protected under Act VII of 1904.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

STATIONERY.

Stationery.

48. Considerable savings were effected again by almost all departments and a revision of departmental allotments has therefore been suggested by the Controller.

PRINTING.

Printing.

49. Late receipt of work for immediate printing caused frequent overtime working and a consequent excess in the amount paid to workmen over the value of their outturn.

VETERINARY.

Veterinary.

50. Rinderpest was less prevalent and there was consequently a large reduction in mortality from disease. This was accompanied by a further increase in the number of cattle treated by the itinerant staff, but much of the debility seen in cattle in plains districts is reported to be due to liver fluke disease for which no cure is known.

The staff remained below sanctioned strength and an attempt to attract candidates by raising the number and value of stipends tenable at the Training College was not successful. It has therefore been decided to make a substantial increase in the pay of Veterinary Assistants.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

PART II.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

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G.O. Shillong R.S. No. 14 of 1914

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1913-1914.

PART II.—Report.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

For—

SECTION 1.—Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.
SECTION 2.—Historical Summary.
SECTION 3.—Form of Administration.
SECTION 4.—Character of Land Tenures, System of Surveys and Settlements.
SECTION 5.—Civil Divisions of British Territory.
SECTION 6.—Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 1—75.]

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration.

Changes in the Administration.

1. During the year the judicial staff of the province was strengthened by the temporary appointment in May 1913 of Mr. Abdul Majid, B.A., L.L.B., Barrister-at-Law, as Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, and by the temporary appointment in April 1914 of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhib-ud-din Ahmad, Extra Assistant Commissioner, as Subordinate Judge and Assistant Sessions Judge of the Assam Valley Districts.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Feudatory States.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 76—85.]

SECTION 9.—Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

FEUDATORY STATES.

MANIPUR.

[Tribute :—Rs. 50,000. Population (1911) 3,46,222. Average gross revenue for last five years Rs. 5,18,055. Military Police :—7 officers and 223 men. Products :—rice, vegetables, sugarcane, tobacco, wax, tea and other forest products, ponies, cattle. Manufactures :—Silk and cotton cloth, brass and other metal utensils, mustard oil, a few articles of ivory and jewellery, some leather work and coarse salt. Minerals :—Iron, limestone, copper.]

[Raja :—His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh, aged 28 years, caste Kshatriya. His Highness has two daughters by his first wife Rani Ngangbom Dhansmanjuri Ibemacha ; two sons, aged 6 and 3 years, by his second wife Rani Chingakhom Syama Sakhi ; one daughter by his third wife Rani Ngangbom Priya Sakhi ; and one son, aged 11 months, by his fifth wife Rani Haobom Lilabati.]

General.

2. The main feature of the year was the abolition of the *gothang*, or system of personal service by raiyats in the up-keep of roads and schools and in the conveyance of the baggage of touring officials. In order to cover the expenses thus assumed by

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

the State extra taxes were imposed. These consisted of (i) an increase of 3 annas per rupee of land revenue in the main valley, (ii) the sale of thatching grass *mahals* and minor fisheries, (iii) the imposition of survey, partition and process fees and an increase in court fees, and (iv) a nominal fee in primary schools. The agitation against the old *pothang* system was transferred to one against these taxes and advantage was taken of the visit of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in November to spread rumours that the special taxes had been abolished. Eventually the leading agitators were arrested and imprisoned, but the collection of the revenue was delayed and arrears were large at the end of the year.

The Darbar also regularised, or converted into money payments, other old obligations of personal service.

Hill tribes.

3. The conduct of the hill tribes and of the tribes in the unadministered tract was satisfactory.

Administration of the land revenue.

4. During the year 3,440 *bighas* of waste land were taken into cultivation and 1,643 *bighas* of settled land were relinquished. The demand of land revenue, including arrears, was Rs. 3,50,238, Rs. 3,23,499 or 92·36 per cent. of the demand were collected, Rs. 1,134 were remitted, Rs. 1,246 were paid as fees to mauzadars and Rs. 24,329 remained outstanding. The demand of the new *pothang* taxes was Rs. 63,811. Of this, Rs. 106 were remitted and Rs. 60,008 were collected.

House-tax in the hills was levied at the usual rate of Rs. 3 per house, except in Kuki villages of less than 20 houses, in which it was raised to Rs. 6 per house in default of amalgamation with a larger village. This was done as much inconvenience in administration and in the collection of taxes had been experienced from the prevalence of these small villages. The tax of annas 10 per house on Kukis and Nagas cultivating land in the valley and in Jiribam was not altered. Owing mainly to the excess tax on small villages, the demand, including arrears of Rs. 10,837, rose from Rs. 72,642 to Rs. 88,276, of which Rs. 63,606 were collected.

Production and trade.

5. The rainfall was normal, but deficient at the time of transplanting. The rice crop suffered from this and also from hailstorms in November and is estimated to have been only 62·5 per cent. of the normal. The scarcity in the hills to the south-west was felt up to October, and 3,209 maunds of rice were distributed by the State in this locality. The plague of rats, however, has ceased, good crops were realised in the cold weather, and the villagers were able to pay off part of their arrears of house-tax, advances and debts.

Owing to the short crops and to the demand from neighbouring districts the price of rice was high and the agricultural portion of the community derived benefit therefrom.

The silk venture, which was taken over by the Darbar in the previous year, was again unfortunate. Seed ordered from Europe arrived too late, worms were destroyed deliberately at the instigation of the *pothang* agitators, and also by carelessness, by rats, by storms, by hail and by disease. The eggs ordered for the coming season hatched out and died on the way and three plantations on unsuitable soil had to be abandoned. The one hopeful incident of the year was that the industry was taken up voluntarily by some hill villages bordering the valley.

The Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation continued their girdling operations in the teak forests of the Kabaw Valley. A special officer was borrowed from the Government of Assam to inspect and report on the forests of the Cachar border, which have been yielding yearly a diminishing revenue. He reported that the more accessible forests have been denuded of valuable timber, but advises that by a system of felling *coupes*, in regular rotation and under proper supervision, these forests should recover and become a source of steady income to the State and of profit to the local hillmen.

The school established for the instruction of women in the use of improved handlooms proved a failure and was closed at the end of the year.

During the year 5,829 cattle and 228 ponies, the major portion of which had been bought in Burma, were exported.

Justice.

6. The number of offences reported fell from 656 to 643 and the number of persons brought to trial from 1,102 to 1,086. Of these, 270 were convicted and 662 were acquitted or discharged. Appeals were preferred in 49 cases and resulted in the sentence of the lower court being confirmed in 13 cases, modified or reversed in 20 cases and quashed in 3 cases, while in 2 cases further enquiry was ordered. Civil courts disposed of 2,780 suits of an aggregate value of Rs. 1,44,029. In 392 appeals disposed of during the year, the decision of the lower court was confirmed in 233 cases and modified or reversed in 130 cases; in 38 cases a compromise was effected, and 11 cases were remanded for retrial.

Finance.

7. The revenue of the State rose from Rs. 5,08,133 to Rs. 5,10,595 and was increased further to Rs. 5,91,327 by the proceeds of the *pothang* taxes. Receipts under the heads "Land Revenue," "Hill Tribes," "Fisheries," "Foreigners Tax," "Ferries," "Excise" and "Miscellaneous" increased, and decreased under the heads "Salt," "Forests," "Tea seed," "Law and Justice" and "Jail." The total expenditure was Rs. 6,33,455, of which Rs. 56,357 came from the *pothang* fund, against Rs. 6,22,731 in the previous year. A further loan was taken for the water-works and the State was indebted to the extent of Rs. 1,75,000 at the close of the year and had a closing balance, including Rs. 24,375 on account of the *pothang* fund, of Rs. 3,21,230.

Miscellaneous.

8. The water-works at Imphal were completed at a cost of Rs. 2,97,079 and resulted in a noticeable improvement in the health of the town-people. A nominal fee was charged in primary schools and, at Imphal, the Lady Earle's Girls' School was opened.

Rinderpest was far less prevalent during the year. The veterinary assistant toured freely and treated 1,707 animals in his dispensary and 154 on tour.

With the proceeds of the *pothang* taxes great improvements were made to the roads and school buildings.

FRONTIER TRIBES.

General.

9. A policy of peaceful penetration was pursued successfully during the year. The survey parties in the Mishmi and Abor countries completed their work without friction and returned in June and August. The Lohit Valley road was carried to Theronliang and communication with the hill tribes was kept up by promenades to Walong in the Mishmi country and through the Aka and Dafla countries. The British officers on these promenades visited Dhirang Jong, Towang and Rima, and were received in a most friendly manner by the Tibetan officials. The south of Tibet was also explored and surveyed by Captain Bailey and Captain Morshead after the close of the Dibong survey operations. The only opposition experienced on these various expeditions was from the Daflas during the promenade through their country.

Bhutias.

10. The usual fair was held at Darranga and Bhutias also visited Udalgiri, Kokilabari, the temples at Kamakhya and other places. Their conduct was good and the usual *posa* of Rs. 5,000, Rs. 2,526-7-0 and Rs. 145-13-6 were given to the Bhutia Gellengs and to the Charduar and Thebengia Bhutias respectively. His Highness the Maharaja of Bhutan visited Dewangiri and many questions of administration were discussed with him and the Political Officer of Sikkhim by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division and the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup.

Akas.

11. Only one Hazarikhoa and six Kapaschor chiefs visited Tezpur and received their *posa*.

Daflas.

12. Fewer Daflas visited the plains and the *posa* of Athu Raja was withheld as he raided the house of a Kachari. Some Tagin Abors raided a Dafla village at Hathiputhi, killing 4 and capturing 20 persons. The Daflas retaliated and captured six Abors. These were taken over and kept in jail at Tezpur till the Dafla captives were released. A military police guard was stationed to watch the passes from these hills and the Political Officer will deal further with this matter in due course.

Apa Tanangs and Miris.

13. The conduct of these tribes was good, but the new rubber rules were not popular and fewer Apa Tanangs came to trade. Takam Gam, a hill Miri, who had given much trouble, was captured and imprisoned, but his son Tada Gam evaded arrest.

Abors.

14. Relations with the Abors were good and they are bringing their disputes in increasing numbers to be decided by the Assistant Political Officer at Pasighat. A trading post was established at Rotung and proposals have been made to move it gradually further into the country. The only unpleasant incident of the year was the resistance offered by the Abor village of Membo to a settlement of some men of Yebuk, as ferry men, on the banks of the Dihong. The Political Officer visited Membo and realised a fine of 10 *mithan* for the destruction of the houses of the men of Yebuk.

Mishmis.

15. The Mishmis were friendly and readily supplied labour for the promenade party on its way to Walong. They continued to bring their produce to Sadiya for auction by the Political Officer. A Chulikata Mishmi of Apolin, however, committed a murder in British territory and an attempt to arrest him was not successful.

Hkamptis and Singphos.

16. These tribes behaved well, but towards the end of the year three Kayas were murdered at the Singpho village of Waket. The headmen of this village will be required to stand their trial, the Kaya's shop, from which the villagers obtained their opium, will probably be closed and the permission given to the Waket Tang to capture elephants has been withdrawn.

Margherita Rangpang, Bardnaria, Namsangya, Barmithunia, Nagas.

17. Complaints were received that Rangpang Nagas were stealing rails belonging to the Assam Railway and Trading Company. A warning was given but the thefts continued, and so the people of the villages concerned were forbidden to enter British territory. In a quarrel between Bardnaria and Barmithunia Nagas three of the former were killed. This took place outside the Inner Line, but the Mithunia Raja's conduct was not satisfactory so his annual subsidy has been withheld.

Naga Hills.

18. Relations with the Nagas of the unadministered tract were good, and two headmen, who were responsible for an attack by the men of Anangba on the village of Kumishe, in which a British subject was killed, were imprisoned. In this attack 16 persons in all were killed and two girls were carried off and subsequently sacrificed.

Sixteen other head-hunting raids, mainly in the nature of vendettas and resulting in the death of 40 persons, were reported from the transfrontier villages.

Khasi and Jaintia, Lushai, Garo Hills, Hill Tippera.

19. Politically the year was uneventful in the Khasi and Jaintia, Lushai and Garo Hills, and relations with the Raja of Hill Tippera continued to be friendly.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the people.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

Condition of the people.

20. The plains districts of the Surma Valley suffered severely from floods in June and July and the early and autumn rice crops were poor. Agricultural loans and gratuitous relief were distributed promptly and serious distress, which seemed likely to ensue, especially in the Habiganj subdivision, was thereby averted. In Cachar the winter crops were fairly good, but in parts of Sylhet further damage was caused by hail in December and there were late floods in the Sunamganj subdivision. In the Naga and Lushai Hills the plague of rats ceased and good harvests were realised, but in the North Cachar Hills heavy rain in the early part of the year and a prolonged drought thereafter caused a partial failure of the crops and relief had to be given to the people. In the Assam Valley the weather was favourable on the whole, but untimely rain, followed by drought, did some damage to winter crops in Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong.

Immigration from Eastern Bengal into the districts of Goalpara and Nowgong and the subdivision of Sunamganj continued, and Sonthals from Jalpaiguri and Nepalese graziers made further settlements in the Eastern Duars of Goalpara. Within the province migration was maintained from the more populous parts of the Surma Valley to Nowgong and Kamrup. The colonisation of the Nambor forest made little progress, and the report of a special officer, who was deputed to enquire and advise on this matter, shows that there is little prospect of developing this portion of the province as long as lands are available in more attractive quarters.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION 1.—Realization of the revenue.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

General.

21. An account of the demand and collection of land revenue will be found in Chapter V.—"Revenue and Finance." During the year there was an increase of 87 square miles to the settled area and the revenue demand rose by Rs. 96,379 to Rs. 71,85,116, the incidence of revenue per square mile being Rs. 537·04.

Permanently-settled estates.

22. There was no change in the area and revenue demand of the permanently-settled estates in the Assam Valley: In the Surma Valley five estates were transferred from Mymensingh to Sylhet and five estates were bought by Government for arrears of revenue and transferred to the class of temporarily-settled estates. These transactions resulted in an increase of 1,264 acres in area and of Rs. 121 in revenue from permanently-settled estates. The revenue demand amounted to Rs. 4,61,556, of which Rs. 3,78,756 were collected and Rs. 82,800 remained outstanding. As was explained in the report for 1912-13, the Sylhet district is responsible for the outstanding balance from this class of estates.

Temporarily-settled estates.

23. Temporarily-settled estates comprise 40·89 per cent. of the settled area of the province and contribute 89·83 per cent. of the land revenue demand. The total area of these estates, settled at full rates for ordinary cultivation, increased by 36,958 acres and the revenue demand from them by Rs. 65,022. The current demand for the year rose by Rs. 91,249 to Rs. 67,77,250 and the arrear demand fell by Rs. 25,498 to Rs. 2,05,227. Collections were better than in the previous year and rose from 97 to 99·35 per cent. on the current demand and from 94·64 to 95·43 per cent. on the arrear demand. This improvement was shared by all districts except Cachar and Sylhet. In Cachar a decrease from 99·82 to 98·12 per cent. of the demand was due to the default of two mauzadars, and in Sylhet the fact that the main *kists* fall due towards the end of the revenue year constantly causes an apparent failure in collection. Under special settlements there was an increase of 2,155 acres and of Rs. 7,041 revenue. Progressive assessments in Sylhet and some expansion of cultivation in the Nambor forest in Sibsagar account for the greater part of this increase.

Remittances by special money-orders.

24. Only in Sylhet is revenue remitted by special money-orders. The number of these orders rose from 3,152 to 3,361, and the amount covered by them from Rs. 9,848 to Rs. 11,678.

Coercive measures employed for collection of revenue.

25. The number of estates on the owners of which notices of demand were served fell from 60,842 to 58,582, but the number of attachments of property rose from 33,835 to 37,195. Notices of sale and sales of property however fell from 15,051 and 878 to 12,495 and 769, respectively. The increase in the number of attachments took place mainly in Sibsagar and was due to a failure on the part of the *raiyats* to realise that the practice of issuing preliminary notices of demand of revenue, before attaching property, had been discontinued. Since the close of the year important changes have been made in order to facilitate collection of arrear revenue and to improve the status of mauzadars. The practice of issuing preliminary notices of demand will be discontinued entirely, selected mauzadars will be vested with powers to issue attachment orders on their own motion and to dispose of uncontested mutation and partition cases, and provision will be made to extend, in certain cases, the term for which security is taken from mauzadars and the date of payment of the last instalment of revenue due from them.

Processes.

26. The number of processes issued rose from 187,661 to 187,662, but this figure was only attained by an increase in the number of unpaid processes, and the fees realised fell from Rs. 1,37,259 to Rs. 1,33,478. The cost of the establishment rose by Rs. 462 to Rs. 64,632.

Miscellaneous land revenue.

27. The demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue rose by Rs. 39,557 to Rs. 7,14,869, of which 99·83 per cent. was collected.

Loans.

28. No loans were given under the Land Improvement Act, but under the Agriculturists' Loans Act Rs. 3,11,806 were advanced, of which Rs. 2,73,304 were distributed in Sylhet and Cachar, where floods damaged crops and caused some loss of cattle. Including loans outstanding from previous years, the total amounts to be recovered aggregated Rs. 9,68,566. Of this sum, Rs. 1,86,152 were due to be recovered within the year, Rs. 1,41,450 were actually recovered and Rs. 11,438 were remitted.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Other revenue work.

29. No new work of importance was undertaken during the year, but villagers in submontane tracts and in parts of Kamrup and Nowgong deepened, cleared and diverted streams to irrigate their fields. In Sibsagar eight *bunds* were maintained by the Public Works Department, but breaches occurred in the Disang, Dwarika and Dihing embankments and some damage was caused thereby. The measures for preventing erosion of the river bank in Dibrugarh town proved unavailing, and the bank near the steamer *ghat* was cut so badly that a re-alignment of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway line became necessary. New efforts are being made now to prevent further erosion.

Partitions.

30. Omitting summary partitions under rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual, 348 partitions were instituted during the year. Together with cases pending from previous years there were in all 601 cases for disposal, and of these 325 were decided and 276 remained pending. The ratio of disposals to the total number of cases rose from 49·4 to 54·07 per cent., but the number of pending cases still remained very large.

SECTION 2.—Surveys and Settlements.

[*See* Report on Survey and Settlement Operations in Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1914.]

Survey.

31. During the year Captain C. M. Thompson, I.A., was appointed Second Assistant Director of Surveys with headquarters at Shillong. The survey schools at Dibrugarh, Silchar and Gauhati were abolished and a combined land surveying school was opened in temporary quarters at Jhalukbari near Gauhati. Three Assistant Commissioners, one Extra Assistant Commissioner, six Sub-Deputy Collectors and 43 out of 50 students in the mandals' class passed through this school successfully.

32. In the Lakhimpur district traverse surveys of 12 tea-garden grants and of the Digboi oil field were completed. The traverse of extension villages in Kamrup was also undertaken, but without much success, by three mandals trained in the previous year, and the survey of Messrs. Birkmyre's grant for jute cultivation was continued. The demarcation of the Goalpara-Bhutan boundary and the relaying of part of the boundary between Sylhet and Hill Tippera were completed. *Thak* boundaries were demarcated or relaid in Sylhet and extension survey traverses were made in other districts.

33. The Shillong Drawing office printed 64,471 copies of maps for Assam, of which 33,984 were village maps, and preparations were made to prepare and print vernacular maps for use in schools.

Settlement.

34. Effect was given during the year to the orders issued in September 1913 sanctioning the classification of the sites of the Dibrugarh town and the rates of assessment to be applied thereto. The resettlement came into force from the 1st April, and the final report, which was submitted to the Local Administration in February 1914, shows that the operation has resulted in an addition to the revenue of Rs. 11,342.

35. Resettlement operations in Guma Duar in Goalpara, which were postponed by order No. 6518R., dated the 4th December 1913, on account of the illness of the Sub-Deputy Collector in charge, were taken up late in the year. The Deputy Commissioner's proposals for land classification have since been sanctioned. The question of the resettlement of the Bijni and Sidli Duars in Goalpara with the Rani of Bijni and the Raja of Sidli was further considered and orders have been issued since the close of the year. The revision of the present settlement of the Cachar district, which expires on 1st April 1915, was commenced on 1st October 1913. Mr. W. L. Scott was appointed Settlement Officer, with effect from 1st July 1913, and was given three Assistant Settlement Officers from 1st October 1914. For settlement purposes the district has been divided into six groups. The field work in connection with the programme for the season 1913-14, which consisted of map revision and record correction of four of the groups, was completed.

36. The last settlement of the Jaintia parganas expired on 1st April 1914. In 1912-13 Mr. W. L. Scott enquired into the economic condition of the people and the state of records in this area along with the Cachar district. His report, advocating a revision of the settlement, was received in March 1913 and the inception of resettlement operations in the area was sanctioned. But, on the recommendation of the local officers, the Cachar resettlement was given precedence and the work in Jaintia was postponed till the cold weather of 1914.

37. The resettlement of the small *nankar patwarigiri* and other estates, covering an area of 27·97 square miles, was commenced by the district staff in Eastern Bengal and Assam in 1908. The widely scattered nature of the area delayed the operations which were finished during the year under report. The Assistant Settlement Officer's final report exhibits a nett increase of Rs. 5,286 over the old revenue of Rs. 15,215, or 35 per cent., of which 11 per cent. represents increase due to the extension of cultivation. Besides this Rs. 2,210 have been added to the revenue for lands newly taken up and settled along with the *nankar patwarigiri* estates.

38. In connection with the experimental operations in the permanently-settled area of Sylhet all preliminary arrangements, including the deputation of the Settlement Officer designate to Dacca for training, were completed.

39. Extension surveys were carried out by the land records agency in all the plains districts as well as in the plains mauzas of the Garo Hills, the area actually surveyed being 137 square miles.

SECTION 3.—Land Records.

Land Records

40. There was no change in the sanctioned strength of mandals and patwaris during the year under report. Vigorous steps continued to be taken to secure resident recorders for all the lots and now 89 per cent. of them are in charge of their home lots or have been exempted from residence, against 83 at the end of the preceding year. The sanctioned number of supervisor kanungos was increased by the addition of one in the Jorhat subdivision of Sibsagar and two in the Nowgong district. Proposals were submitted for starting a new circle in Nowgong mainly made up of hill mauzas. These mauzas were under the direct supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, who could not devote enough time to them owing to his multifarious duties, and the immediate creation of the circle became a necessity in order to avoid loss of revenue and land speculation on a large scale by the colonists from the Surma Valley, who are migrating to these mauzas in very large numbers. The new circle has since been sanctioned.

SECTION 4.—Settlement for special cultivation (waste lands).

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

Settlement of Special cultivation.

41. The area settled for special cultivation increased by 15,450 acres to 1,153,921 acres and the revenue therefrom rose to Rs. 7,31,455. This expansion is attributed to the prosperity of the tea industry. Land is being taken up with a view to the future expansion of old estates, as well as to the formation of new gardens, and in the Lakhimpur district a tendency to speculate in this type of settlement has been noted.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

Nil.

SECTION 6.—Wards' Estates.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

General.

42. The management of the Sylhet estates of the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca was undertaken during the year and brought up to 10 the number of estates under the Court of Wards. No estate was released during the year, but the wards of the Hoshenpur estate professed themselves anxious to resume personal management of their property, and, on failing to comply with the conditions imposed, adopted an obstructive attitude towards the Court.

Revenue, rent and cesses.

43. The amount of revenue and cesses payable to Government, including arrears, was Rs. 29,558, and of this sum, Rs. 27,059, which represented 103·6 per cent. of the current demand, were realised. Rent and cesses due to superior landlords were paid in full by all estates except that of the Khan Bahadur and the dues of this estate will be paid when a loan for it has been negotiated. The demand on account of rents and cesses due to the estates, including arrears aggregating Rs. 2,88,393, amounted to Rs. 5,90,601. Of this sum, Rs. 3,00,787 were collected, Rs. 16,247 were remitted and Rs. 2,73,567 remained outstanding. Collections in the Prithimpasa, Hoshenpur and Ilias Ali estates were not so good as in the previous year. Many *raiyats* were unable to pay their dues on account of losses caused to them by the floods. In the Prithimpasa estate there was a dispute about certain lands, which delayed payment of rents, and in the Hoshenpur estate the wards fostered opposition to the management by the Court.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Debts.

44. The debts of the Kumar Gopika Raman Ray estate, which is heavily encumbered, were reduced by Rs. 68,454, and small reductions of debt were made for the Hoshenpur and Khan Bahadur estates. Negotiations were also started to consolidate the debts of the Khan Bahadur estate by a loan of Rs. 40,000 from the Countess of Dufferin's Fund.

Management charges and improvements.

45. The cost of management rose from 16 to 20 per cent. of the current demand. The Prithimpasa estate spent a considerable sum on schools, dispensaries and works of public utility, and the Kumar Gopika Raman Ray estate contributed to the maintenance of the Raja Giris Chandra High School in Sylhet. The other estates were unable to do more than subscribe to various dispensaries.

SECTION 7.—Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

Material condition of the people.

46. The condition of the cultivators in the Surma Valley was not good and agricultural loans and gratuitous relief had to be distributed, though in some parts benefit will be derived in future from the silt deposited by the floods. In the Assam Valley conditions were more favourable, but in Kamrup some distress was caused by deposits of sand from the overflowing of the Pagladia and Beki rivers and by the Brahmaputra. In the hill districts the people were prosperous, except in the North Cachar Hills where, after two years of destruction by rats, untimely rain and drought again caused a partial failure of the crops.

Throughout the province the price of rice rose high, owing to the demand from other provinces where scarcity prevailed, and cultivators derived profit from this, but the wages of labour also rose.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—Legislative Authority.

[See General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 32-34.]

SECTION 2.—Course of Legislation.

47. The Legislative Council undertook no legislation during the year. The formation of new Municipalities in Sylhet and the needs of Jorhat as the headquarters of the Sibsagar district led to the extension of several Acts, as set forth in the following table —

Act.	Town to which Act was extended.
1. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, XI of 1890 ...	Jorhat.
2. Public Gambling Act, III of 1867, Sections 3 to 12 and 14 to 16	Jorhat, Habiganj, Sunamganj, Karimganj, Maulvi Bazar.
3. Police Act, V of 1861	Jorhat, Nowgong.
4. Bengal Cruelty to Animals (Arrest) Act, III of 1869 ...	Jorhat, Nowgong.
5. Bengal Vaccination Act, V of 1880	Jorhat, Nowgong, Habiganj.
6. Bengal Births and Deaths Registration Act, IV of 1873 ...	Jorhat, Nowgong, Karimganj.
7. Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884, Part IX	Karimganj, Habiganj, Sunamganj.
8. Bengal Act V of 1876	Maulvi Bazar.

SECTION 3.—Police.

MILITARY POLICE.

Strength and distribution.

48. Recruiting was carried on vigorously in order to fill up vacancies that will be caused by transfer of men to the new battalion which is being raised at Dibrugarh, and the number of recruits enlisted thus rose from 169 in the previous year to 244, of whom 83·10 per cent. were Gurkhas.

The Garo Hills detachment was amalgamated with this new battalion and a Commandant and an Assistant Commandant were appointed to it under the provisional sanction of the Government of India. A third Assistant Commandant was appointed to the Naga Hills battalion, and, in view of the formation of the new battalion, the headquarters of the Lakhimpur battalion were transferred from Dibrugarh to Sadiya.

Efficiency.

49. Drill, musketry and the standard of smartness suffered by the prolonged absence of many men on active service, by extra guard duty thus incurred by others and by the presence of a large number of recruits. Signalling also was reported to be unsatisfactory except in the Naga Hills battalion, and in all but the Lakhimpur battalion there was a slight increase in the percentage of punishments. But the military efficiency of the force has certainly been raised by its experience of active service.

Casualties.

50. Casualties increased under all heads, mainly owing to the hard work endured by all battalions since 1911, but, in the case of dismissals, which rose from 18 in the previous year to 32, to a certain laxity of discipline resulting from the constant detachment on active service of small parties under non-commissioned officers.

Health.

51. The number of deaths rose from 26 in 1912 to 34, but the percentage of admissions into hospital fell again from 70·37 to 62·80. The daily average number of sick in hospital, however, increased in all battalions.

Military operations and escort work.

52. The Naga Hills expedition, described in the report for 1912-13, was carried to a successful conclusion. The escorts with the Debong and Dehong Survey Parties returned in June and August and are reported to have performed their duties admirably in spite of bad weather and the difficulties of the country. Further escort work was done by 200 rifles of the Naga Hills battalion in the Aka country and by 40 rifles of the Lakhimpur battalion on the North-East Frontier.

PROTECTION.

Miscellaneous.

53. Twenty-five rifles of the Silchar detachment were sent to Chittagong in September toassist the railway police in guarding large consignments of rice, as many thefts were taking place. This detachment also assisted the civil authorities twice in Cachar, to prevent riots, and once in Sylhet, to supplement the armed police.

The kit allowance to recruit boys was raised from Rs. 6 to Rs. 16 and the maintenance grant from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per annum.

CIVIL POLICE.

Strength.

54. The reorganisation of the civil police was continued during the year and 3 Inspectors, 1 Sergeant, 10 Sub-Inspectors, 33 head constables and 100 constables were added to the sanctioned strength of the force. Recruitment was also carried on more successfully and the number of men enlisted rose from 276 in 1912 to 510 in the present year. Of these 246 were recruited locally.

Efficiency.

55. The efficiency and discipline of the force still leaves much to be desired, but it is hoped that the offer of higher pay to head constables and constables will attract better material and enable a higher standard to be enforced. Moreover, some improvement has already resulted from the practice, where it has been found possible to introduce it, of training Sub-Inspectors systematically in drill and musketry at headquarters and of drilling men twice a week at thanas where such Sub-Inspectors are stationed. It is hoped by this system to imbue both officers and men with a habit of discipline.

The work of Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors has been more satisfactory than it was in the previous year. Selection of Sub-Inspectors for promotion was made more strict, and failure on the part of Inspectors to supervise subordinates was met by reversion and loss of promotion.

Conduct.

56. The number of judicial punishments fell from 47 to 44, but departmental punishments rose from 929 to 1,065, the increase being greatest in the districts of Sylhet and Darrang. Seventy-five criminal charges were brought against the police, as compared with 85 in 1912. Of these, 20 were charges of bribery and extortion and they resulted in judicial conviction of three constables and in departmental action being taken against one Sub-Inspector, one head constable and two constables. Of the 75 criminal charges brought against the police, 15 ended in conviction, 15 others were declared to be true, 13 were declared to be doubtful, 3 remained pending at the close of the year and the rest were declared to be false or mistaken. No civil suit was brought against the police during the year.

Health.

57. The number of deaths was 33, an increase of 1 on the figures of the previous year, but the percentage of admissions into hospital fell from 35·6 to 33·3 in the year under report. Quinine was given twice a week to constables during the malaria season and mosquito nets were supplied in unhealthy stations.

Reserves.

58. A policy of appointing havildars of military police as Sub-Inspectors of the armed reserve was initiated and resulted in marked improvement in the discipline and efficiency of the latter force. This improvement was especially notable in Sylhet, where an *ex*-Colour Sergeant of the Royal Scots was put in charge of the armed reserve as Inspector and where the additional Superintendent of Police personally reorganised the force on the lines of a military police company.

The ordinary reserve again proved inadequate for the duties it should perform, and only in four districts could leave be granted up to the prescribed limit of 10 per cent. This must affect the popularity of the service and the question of increasing the reserve is under consideration.

Railway Police.

59 A reversion to the procedure, which was in force prior to the year 1909 and under which all missing goods cases were sent to the police for enquiry, instead of those only that were suspected to be criminal, resulted in raising the number of these cases from 65 in 1912 to 1,526. Of these, 146 were reported to be criminal, as compared with 24 in the previous year. This great increase was due not only to the change in procedure, but largely to a great number of petty thefts which accompanied abnormally heavy rice traffic from Burma in August and September. These thefts ceased at once when small detachments of military police were posted at Chandpur, Laksam and Chittagong.

Running train thefts and cases of stone-throwing increased slightly, but there was a satisfactory decrease in cases of obstruction.

It is regrettable that the number of accidents rose from 97 to 143, though of these only 49 were fatal. They were due mainly to trespass on the line by pedestrians.

60. The Bengal river police maintained their stations at Markuli and Madna, but a launch was acquired by this Administration to patrol waterways of the Sylhet district in localities where dacoity prevails. River Police.

61. The question of establishing a combined training school for probationers, cadets and recruits was still being considered at the close of the year. Training Schools.

62. The chaukidari system was in force only in three districts of the province. Chaukidars reported vital statistics and occurrences of crime fairly well, but failed to give much help to the police in preventing crime. The number of chaukiders punished was very large, especially in the Sylhet district. The number rewarded was again low. The Chief Commissioner took up before the close of the year the question of making the chaukidari force more efficient and he has addressed Commissioners on the subject. He has no doubt that with the exercise of reasonable care a great improvement can be effected. Rural Police.

63. The nett cost of the department rose from Rs. 20,47,895 in 1912 to Rs. 23,24,281 in the year under report. The increase was due mainly to additional establishment and to the construction of new buildings under the scheme for reorganising the district police. Finance.

64. There was a further large increase of 2,238 in the number of cognizable cases. Of those reported or referred to the police, 39·7 per cent. came to trial, as compared with 41·4 per cent. in 1912, but the percentage of convictions rose from 79·1 per cent. to 81·8 per cent. in the year under report. Crime.

Floods and a consequent rise in the price of food resulted in a large number of offences against property in the Sylhet district, and in Kamrup an increase in serious crime is attributed to immigration and importation of up-country men belonging to criminal classes.

Special attention was given to these up-country criminals in the Assam Valley and in the case of two gangs convictions were secured. In the Surma Valley preventive measures were taken in the district of Sylhet. The issue of formal notices to landowners on whose property breaches of the peace were apprehended is reported to have had a good effect, and a notorious gang of river dakaits was registered under the Criminal Tribes Act.

The number of processes, other than warrants, sent by Magistrates for service by the police was unduly large. The service of these processes hampers the police in their proper criminal work and should be imposed on them as little as possible. The attention of officers of both services is also drawn to the inadequate use made of the preventive sections and section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code and of sections 174, 182 and 211 of the Indian Penal Code.

65. The year was marked by an attempt to assassinate Mr. Gordon, Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar, with a picric acid bomb. The attempt failed owing to the premature explosion of the bomb, by which the would-be assassin was killed. Two revolvers were found on the body of the assassin and, on examination, the bomb was found to be almost identical with those used in the outrages at Delhi, Lahore, Midnapur and Dalhousie Square. Enquiries into this crime were made, but had not been successful by the close of the year. Political crime.

Twenty-two cases were reported of seditious leaflets being received through the post or found pasted up in public places, schools and colleges. There were also several instances of anonymous threatening letters being received through the post by officials and others.

66. The strength of the Criminal Investigation Department was increased during the year to a force of 4 Inspectors, 4 Sub-Inspectors, 3 head constables and 8 constables. Some cases of murder and dacoity were dealt with and also 22 cases of fraudulent transactions by agents of insurance companies. Miscellaneous.

The small finger-print bureau had 1,139 search slips submitted to it during the year and traced previous convictions in 68 cases.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

67. Two Sessions Judges, one additional Sessions Judge, eight District Magistrates, seventy-two stipendiary Magistrates and twenty-nine Honorary Magistrates were employed on criminal work during the year. Staff.

Magistrates' courts.

68. Compared with the previous year noticeable features of the work of 1913 were an increase in the number of offences reported, in the number of cases accepted as true and in the number of cases brought to trial, and a decrease in the ratio of complaints dismissed and cases struck off to the total number of cases and in the ratio of persons convicted to the total number of accused whose cases were decided finally. The figures are given in the following table :—

—	Offences reported.	Cases accepted as true.	Cases brought to trial.	Ratio of complaints dismissed.	Ratio of persons convicted.
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Per cent.	Per cent.
1913	41,767	27,427	19,520	34·1	42·7
1912	39,174	24,837	17,422	35·8	44·6

The number of persons whose cases were decided by Magistrates was 31,638, and of these, 13,515 were convicted, 4,509 on summary and 9,006 on regular trial. In cases under the Indian Penal Code, however, only 7,048 persons, 34·2 per cent. of those tried, were convicted.

The number of witnesses examined was 59,660, of whom 77 per cent. were discharged on the first day of trial and 858 were detained for more than three days.

At the close of the year 2,014 persons were awaiting trial and 114 were in custody.

Magistrates sentenced 3,191 persons to imprisonment, 9,713 to fines, 138 to be whipped and 270 to fulfil contracts under Act XIII of 1859. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 1,22,554, of which Rs. 1,02,628 were realised and Rs. 23,346 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Bonds for keeping the peace were taken from 1,142 persons and 291 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour. Of the latter, 212 persons, in default of furnishing security, were sentenced to imprisonment. In 107 cases complainants were found to have brought frivolous or vexatious charges and were ordered to pay compensation to the accused.

Courts of Session.

69. Two hundred and fifty-eight cases, involving 438 persons, were tried during the year, and 24 cases, involving 58 persons, were pending at its close. Of the persons tried, 322 were convicted and sentenced in the Sessions Court, 106 were discharged or acquitted and 10 were referred for orders of the High Court.

Sentence of death was passed on 7 persons, but on reference to the High Court, the order was confirmed only in the case of two persons, 4 of the others being sentenced to transportation for life and one dying before orders were passed. Twenty persons were sentenced to transportation for life, 12 to transportation for a term of years, 286 to rigorous imprisonment and 22 to fines aggregating Rs. 2,460.

In the cases of 139 persons tried by jury the Judge agreed with the verdict in regard to 89 persons and disagreed in regard to 50 persons. Reference was made to the High Court under section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code with regard to 3 persons. The opinion of the Judge was accepted in each case, two of the persons being acquitted and one convicted.

In trials with the aid of assessors the Judge concurred with both assessors in 145 instances and with one in 24 instances. In 21 instances he disagreed with both assessors.

The number of witnesses examined before the Courts of Session was 2,226, of whom 573, or 25·7 per cent., were detained for more than three days. The average duration of cases in these courts was 42·1 days.

Appellate Jurisdiction, The High Court.

70. The High Court disposed of 117 appeals during the year. The sentences passed in the Sessions Courts were upheld in 95 cases, reversed in 9 and varied in 11, and 2 cases were remanded for re-trial. Four appeals remained for disposal at the end of the year.

71. Six hundred and sixty-six appeals, involving 1,204 persons, were disposed of during the year. The original sentence was confirmed in 62·7 per cent. of the cases, modified in 13·5 per cent. and reversed in 23 per cent. of the cases. New trials were ordered in the case of 6 persons and in one case the proceedings were quashed. Sessions Courts.

72. District Magistrates disposed of the appeals of 714 persons, dismissing the appeal in 67·3 per cent. of the cases, modifying the original sentence in 11·9 per cent. and reversing it in 19·7 per cent. New trials were ordered in seven instances. Magistrates.

73. Applications for revision of orders passed by lower courts were decided in 210 cases by the High Court, in 338 cases by Court of Session and in 262 cases by District Magistrates. Revision.

74. Charges incurred in criminal courts in Assam amounted to Rs. 3,76,492 and receipts to Rs. 2,19,990, exceeding by Rs. 33,613 and Rs. 23,886, respectively, the figures of the previous year. Receipts and charges.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

75. During the year 1,260 cases, involving 1,701 persons were brought to trial. Of these persons, 1,220 were convicted, 405 were acquitted or discharged, 34 died, escaped or were transferred and 42 remained under trial at the end of the year. No person was sentenced to death and only one to transportation. Forty-two persons appealed against the sentences or orders of lower courts. In five cases the original order was modified, one case remained pending at the end of the year and in the remaining cases the original order was confirmed.

SECTION 5.—Jails.

[*See* Report on the Jail Administration in the Province of Assam for the year 1913; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

76. There was no change in the number of jails and sub-jails, but the status of the jails at Gauhati and Tezpur was lowered to that of the third class. General.

77. Admissions fell from 9,651 in 1912 to 9,523 in 1913, but the total number of prisoners rose from 11,233 to 11,421, and the daily average number from 1,828·23 to 1,917·91. Population.

Of the convicts admitted, ·35 per cent. were Christians, 39·41 per cent. were Muhammadans, 53·43 per cent. were Hindus and Sikhs, and ·08 per cent. were Budhists and Jains. Among them were 128 females and 8 persons under 16 years of age.

The daily average number of undertrial prisoners was 216·17 and their average period of detention in Magistrates' cases was for 14·07 days. In 15 cases prisoners were detained for over 3 months, 4 of these cases occurring at Jorhat. The number of civil prisoners was 61.

78. The daily average number of sick fell from 68·80 to 64·68 per diem, but the death-rate rose from 36·10 to 40·67 per mille. Dysentery and pneumonia were responsible for 32 of the 78 deaths that occurred. The Inspector General made personal inquiries and found that Superintendents of Jails were of opinion that dysentery forms the last stage of a case of ankylostome infection, which is very common in Assam. He also observed that a larger proportion of prisoners is admitted to jail in bad health in Assam than in other provinces, and noted that 14·1 per cent. of the deaths occurred within 3 weeks of admission. Defective ventilation was not uncommon and proposals are being submitted for improvement in this respect. Instructions have also been issued for the provision of extra clothing, where necessary, and it is proposed to provide each jail with a boiler for blankets and clothes and a bacteriological miscroscope. Overcrowding occurred again in sub-jails, but, towards the close of the year, the Local Administration issued orders regulating the provision of police escorts for the transfer of prisoners and, in future, accommodation in sub-jails should not be strained unduly. Health.

79. Criminal courts inflicted 12 punishments on convicts, and 1,870 minor and 624 major punishments were inflicted by Superintendents of Jails. Discipline.

There were 14 escapes during the year, four being from within sub-jails and in broad daylight. Many jails are still surrounded only by bamboo palisades and the escape of prisoners is thereby facilitated. The Local Administration, however, has sanctioned a scheme for erecting maosnry walls round all jails and, when this is done, the number of escapes should decrease largely.

Employment and Finance.

80. An average of 44·10 per cent. of the prisoners was employed on manufactures and extramural work. Profits exceeded those earned in 1912 by Rs. 8,655, but, owing to large cash drafts by the Sylhet jail and to large stocks of manufactured articles remaining in hand at Gauhati, cash earnings fell from Rs. 30,109 to Rs. 11,561.

Expenditure on guarding and maintaining prisoners fell from Rs. 1,89,975 to Rs. 1,87,750, but the decline in cash earnings raised the nett cost from Rs. 1,47,947 to Rs. 1,65,068.

SECTION C.—Civil Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

Staff.

81. The Civil Judicial staff of the province consisted of two District Judges, one Additional District Judge, nine Subordinate Judges and 30 Munsifs. Of these, two Subordinate Judges and 10 Munsifs employed in Sylhet were members of the judicial branch of the Provincial Executive Service and the remainder were Executive Officers vested with judicial powers.

Suits.

82. The number of original suits instituted rose from 38,730 in 1912 to 41,139, and the number of suits for disposal rose from 48,135 in 1912 to 51,656 in 1913. Of these 40,466 suits were disposed of in the course of the year. In every case the increase was confined to the Surma Valley, there being a decrease of 103 institutions and of 549 disposals in the Assam Valley. The number of cases pending over one year rose from 199 in 1912 to 233, out of a total of 11,814 cases pending at the close of the year.

Of the suits instituted, 29,188 were for money or moveables and 7,878 for rent Title and other suits numbered 4,073.

The improvement noted last year was not maintained and the average duration of suits before all courts increased, except in the case of uncontested suits under the ordinary procedure before Subordinate Judges.

Execution proceedings.

83. The number of disposals of applications for execution of decrees was 21,337. Nine hundred and twenty-four applications were transferred and 4,460 remained pending at the close of the year. In 68·3 per cent. of the cases the proceedings were returned as unsuccessful and only in 6,764 cases was satisfaction obtained in whole or part, the total amount realised being Rs. 5,01,164.

Coercive measures were used in 1,707 cases, including 38 cases in which judgment-debtors were imprisoned, and in 1,625 cases possession of immoveable property was given. In each respect these figures are lower than those of the previous year.

Miscellaneous.

84. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted during the year was 3,744, and of these 3,661 were disposed of and 814 were left pending.

Of non-judicial cases, mainly for deposit of rent, institutions numbered 926 and disposals 873.

Appeals—(a) In the High Court.

85. There were 271 appeals from decrees before the High Court during the year Of these 122 were decided, the decree of the lower court being reversed or varied in 15 and confirmed in 101 cases. Six cases were remanded to the lower courts.

(b) In Courts subordinate to the High Court.

86. The number of appeals before civil courts was 1,667, but disposals were only 613, giving a ratio of 36·77 per cent. for disposals, which compares unfavourably with that of 66·81 per cent. in the previous year. This left 1,064 appeals pending, of which 131 were pending for over one year. The figures for 1912 were 559 and 20, respectively.

The decrees of the lower courts were affirmed in 71·9 per cent., modified in 10·3 per cent. and reversed in 14·3 per cent. of the appeals decided. These results are less favourable to the lower courts than those of the previous year.

Receipts and charges.

87. Receipts fell to Rs. 6,20,880 and charges rose to Rs. 2,86,767, giving a decrease of Rs. 6,872 in the surplus.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

88. In the Hill districts 1,588 suits, of an aggregate value of Rs. 1,63,780, were instituted. The number of suits for disposal was 1,813 and of these 91 were transferred, 1,622 decided and 100 left pending. Of 47 appeals before the Courts, 42 were decided. The appellants were wholly or partly successful in 23 and wholly unsuccessful in 18 cases, and one case was remanded.

SECTION 7.—Registration.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in Assam for the year 1913 ; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

General. 89. The opening of a temporary *ex-officio* office at Palonghat in the Cachar district raised the number of offices in the province to 38. The cadre of Sub-Registrars was re-adjusted from April 1st, 1913.

Documents. 90. The number of documents registered rose from 74,239 in 1912 to 80,076 in 1913, the main increase being under the heads of 'sales' and 'mortgages' in the Surma Valley, where floods damaged the crops and food prices rose high.

Receipts and expenditure. 91. Receipts rose to Rs. 1,00,958 and expenditure to Rs. 57,868, the surplus for the year exceeding that in 1912 by Rs. 8,018.

Muhammadan Marriage and Divorce Registration Act. 92. The number of ceremonies registered exceeded those of last year by 1,445, the main increase being in the district of Sylhet. In the Assam Valley some improvement was observed in Darrang and Nowgong, but, in Goalpara, village *mollas* are reported to be opposed to this form of registration.

The total income of Muhammadan Registrars rose to Rs. 10,584-2-0.

Indian Companies Act. 93. Fifteen new companies were registered during the year, as compared with 7 in the previous year, the increase probably being due to a desire to register before the 1st April 1914, when a new Act came into force. Of these new companies, 8 were to carry on loan and banking business, 4 for cultivation, fish culture and the acquisition of estates, 2 for printing and publishing and 1 to take over a hotel.

At the close of the year there were 71 registered companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 12,84,084.

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration.

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipalities in Assam during the year 1913-14; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

Constitution. 94. The year was marked by an increase in the number of municipalities in the Surma Valley and by the grant of wider powers to existing bodies in the Assam Valley. Under Act III of 1884 new municipalities were constituted at Karimganj and Sunamganj and the Habiganj Union was raised to the status of a municipality, and under Act V of 1876 a union was established at Maulvi Bazar. Sections 3 to 12 and 14 to 16 of Act III of 1867 were extended to Habiganj, Sunamganj and Maulvi Bazar, Part IX of Act III (B.C.), 1884, to Habiganj and Karimganj, Act V (B.C.), 1880, to Habiganj, Act IV (B.C.), 1873, to Karimganj. In the Assam Valley, Part VII of Act III (B.C.), 1884, Act III of 1867 and Act XI, 1890, were extended to Jorhat, and Act V, 1861, Act III (B.C.), 1869, Act V (B.C.), 1880, and Act IV (B.C.), 1873, were extended to Jorhat and Nowgong. The number of meetings held by municipal bodies rose to 227, of which 11 failed for lack of a quorum, and the average percentage of attendance fell from 66·37 to 65·39.

Taxation 95. Revisions of assessment were made in four municipalities, but only at Dhubri was an appreciable increase of receipts obtained. The number of rate-payers rose from 20,153 to 21,360 and the incidence of taxation per head of population continued to show a satisfactory increase. In 1911-12 it was Re. 1-8-5 per head, in 1912-13 it was Re. 1-10 and in 1913-14 it rose to Re. 1-12-2. Since the close of the year the Sylhet Municipality has been induced to reconsider its financial position and to utilise more fully its local resources.

Income. 96. Contributions from Government fell from Rs. 2,38,797 to Rs. 1,93,384, but receipts from local sources rose from Rs. 2,74,705 to Rs. 3,07,794, thus yielding a nett increase of Rs. 26,877 in total income.

Expenditure. 97. Total expenditure rose from Rs. 4,99,854 to Rs. 5,21,255 and ordinary expenditure, excluding repayments of loans, deposits, etc., rose by Rs. 19,318 to Rs. 5,10,591.

Water-supply. 98. Capital outlay on water-supply fell from Rs. 1,17,741 to Rs. 41,902, but maintenance charges rose from Rs. 28,245 to Rs. 52,035. Since the close of the year detailed estimates for water-works at Silchar and rough projects for similar works at Sylhet, Tezpur and Dhubri have been sanctioned, and methods of financing a project at Dibrugarh are being considered. The Chief Commissioner has also directed meters to be attached to all private connections in Gauhati where water has been wasted persistently.

Public Works. 99. Expenditure rose from Rs. 95,125 to Rs. 1,36,827 and was directed mainly to the improvement of roads.

Conservancy.

100. Expenditure on conservancy showed a steady and satisfactory increase from Rs. 1,14,515 to Rs. 1,33,194. In 1911-12 expenditure under this head had amounted to Rs. 1,07,195. Since the close of the year proposals for extensive improvements to the conservancy arrangements at Sylhet and Dibrugarh have been approved and schemes for the drainage of Gauhati and Dibrugarh and for the general improvement of Karimganj have been submitted for consideration by the Sanitary Board.

Financial position.

101. Aggregate closing balances rose from Rs. 2,18,439 to Rs. 2,52,194. At the close of the year three municipalities had outstanding loans to meet, but their liabilities were not heavy, and, on the whole, the financial position of the municipalities was sound. At Dibrugarh again the closing balance was unnecessarily high.

Audit.

102. Some improvement was noticed in account matters, but, in several cases, insufficient attention was paid to instructions given in former audit notes. A tax collector of the Goalpara Municipality was prosecuted for embezzlement and sentenced to 9 months' rigorous imprisonment and at Shillong the cashier was permitted to resign on making good a deficit in his accounts.

General.

103. The chairmen at Silchar and Gauhati were elected by the members, a privilege which was exercised for the first time and with much appreciation at the former town. The new municipalities in the Sylhet district entered on their duties with keen interest and have extensive schemes of improvement under consideration. Real progress was also made with plans for water-supply, conservancy and drainage in other towns of the province.

SECTION 9.—Local Boards.

[*See* Resolution on the working of Local Boards in Assam during the year 1913-14; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

Constitution.

104. The constitution of the Boards was not altered during the year, but two members were added to the Silchar Board to give further representation to the tea industry and the rural community. The average attendance of all members rose from 60·76 to 62·42, and, with but few exceptions, members are reported to have shown keen interest in the work of their Boards.

Finance.

105. The opening balance of the Boards aggregated Rs. 6,09,387. Their total income amounted to Rs. 38,19,544 and their expenditure to Rs. 30,11,186, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 8,08,358. The ratio of closing balance to total income exceeded 25 per cent. in Dhubri (36·4), Mangaldai (30·47), Nowgong (28·9), Gauhati (27·2), and Goalpara (25·6). The large increase in the income of the Boards, from Rs. 23,88,904 to Rs. 31,35,743, was due mainly to special grants for communications, rural water-supply and education.

The work of the year.

(a) Education.

106. Expenditure on education rose from Rs. 5,63,657 to Rs. 6,32,365, of which Rs. 3,09,878 were received as contributions from Government, an increase of 19·4 per cent. on the contributions given in the previous year. The percentage of local income spent by the Boards on education varied from 11 per cent. in Golaghat to 52 per cent. in South Sylhet and Hailakandi. The special feature of the year was the abolition of fees in vernacular schools, which led to a most satisfactory increase in the number of pupils attending middle vernacular schools. Important steps were also taken towards improving the standard of primary education by raising the pay of teachers in primary schools and by allotting grants for the construction of buildings of a better type.

(b) Medical.

107. Expenditure rose from Rs. 2,11,508 to Rs. 2,48,452, the increase occurring chiefly in the Surma Valley, and the number of dispensaries maintained and aided by the Boards was increased by one to 123. Female doctors or midwives were employed by all Boards in the Surma Valley and by five Boards in the Assam Valley, and several Boards provided for the distribution of medicines at markets. A scheme for a joint medical service was initiated by the Civil Surgeon and accepted by the five Boards of the Sylhet district.

The Boards generally spend all that they can afford on medical relief, but are unable to provide for an adequate standard of maintenance in existing dispensaries or to increase their number in response to the growing demand.

(c) Sanitary improvement and rural water-supply.

108. The experiment of allotting small sums to selected villages for the improvement of rural sanitation was repeated. In all Rs. 12,000 were thus distributed and the results are reported to have been satisfactory, except in Gauhati and in two villages of Sunamganj. The organisation of village authorities, to which this experiment was preliminary, will now be taken up in a few circles and these grants will in future be confined to villages included in those circles.

The Chief Commissioner held a conference in June 1913, to discuss questions of sanitation and water-supply and, as an immediate result, an allotment of Rs. 10,000 was made to each Board for the provision of drinking water in rural areas. All Boards were directed also to prepare programmes for the systematic improvement of their rural water-supply during a period of five years, and type plans for tanks and wells were prepared. The total expenditure of the Boards on sanitation and water-supply rose to Rs. 2,36,768, which represents an increase of 49 per cent. over the expenditure of the previous year, although pressure of other work and local difficulties prevented several Boards from utilising fully the grants given to them for these purposes.

109. Further allotments were made out of the grant of 15 lakhs given for communications in 1912, and first allotments of a second grant of 10 lakhs were also distributed. In all Rs. 21,70,991 were allotted for Public Works and Rs. 19,44,001 were spent, the figures for the previous year being Rs. 13,78,651 and Rs. 12,35,539. The ratio of lapses to allotments rose from 10·38 per cent. in the previous year to 10·46 per cent. The highest percentage of lapses to allotments occurred in Dhubri (35·20), Goalpara (23·72), Habiganj (22·53) and Hailakandi (19·74). In Tezpur and North Sylhet expenditure slightly exceeded allotment. (d) Public Works.

Many of the works financed from the grant of 1912 are being executed for the Boards by the Public Works Department, but all projects under the second grant are being carried out by the Boards' own agency. At the end of the year, under allotments from the first grant, the Public Works Department had constructed 5½ miles of new road, metalled or improved 82½ miles of existing roads and built 13 permanent bridges and 7 culverts. Under both grants the Boards themselves had constructed 104 miles of new road, metalled or improved 160½ miles of existing roads and built 97 permanent and 37 semi-permanent bridges and 91 culverts.

110. Veterinary charges rose from Rs. 20,144 to Rs. 25,087. The Silchar, South Sylhet, Tezpur and Dibrugarh Boards entertained second veterinary assistants during the year, but, though provision was made, qualified men could not be obtained for the Boards at Hailakandi, Sunamganj, Goalpara, Barpeta and Mangaldai. (e) Veterinary.

The North Sylhet Board again held a cattle show and a marked improvement was noted in the quality of the exhibits.

111. The great increase in the grants for sanitation and water-supply, for school buildings and for public works strained severely the resources of the Boards. Moreover, labour and contractors were scarce, much delay occurred in obtaining materials from Calcutta, floods hindered preparations and in both valleys early rain interfered with the excavation of tanks and the building of bridges. Yet the progress made was even more marked than in the previous year and the percentage of lapses showed only a very slight increase. Projects initiated in 1912 were advanced far towards completion, minor works under the grant of 1913 were completed and extensive preparations were made to push forward rapidly the major projects of the year in the next working season. With but few exceptions the officers, members and staff of the Boards showed an interest and energy in their work which promises well for their administration under the more extensive powers with which they will be invested by the Local Self-Government Act. (f) General.

SECTION 10.—Military (Volunteering).

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERS).

112. The undermentioned Volunteer Corps were in existence during 1913-14:—

(1) Assam Valley Light Horse.

(2) Surma „ „ „

The total number of volunteers was—

	On 1st April 1913.	On 1st April 1914.
Officers	86	76
Rank and file	864	898

The numbers on 1st April 1914 were made up as follows:—

Corps.	Officers (including staff and supernumerary officers).	Rank and file.	Reservists.	
			Officers.	Rank and file.
1	2	3	4	5
Surma Valley Light Horse	37	324	Nil	16
Assam „ „ „	35	479	4	79
Total ...	72	803	4	95

SECTION 11.—Marine.

Nil.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 1.—Agriculture and Horticulture.

[*See* Report of the Agricultural Department, Assam, for the year ending 30th June 1914.]

Staff.

113. The staff was strengthened materially during the year. An Agricultural Supervisor and two probationary District Agricultural Officers were at work throughout the year. In December 1913 an Entomological Assistant was appointed and in January 1914 Mr. A. A. Meggitt, B.SC., took up his duties as Agricultural Chemist. In July last moreover Mr. C. S. Chaston was appointed manager of the new sugarcane experiment station at Khagrabari.

Scholarships and Education.

114. In the report for the previous year it was noted with regret that two successive nominees failed to utilise the scholarships given to them for training at the Sabour Agricultural College owing to their distaste for manual labour. In 1913 matters were far more satisfactory. A fieldman clerk from the Jorhat farm was given this scholarship and three youths of the province joined the college as private students. Two Khasi lads were also sent for training to the Rose Filatures concern near Plassy and obtained certificates as trained silk-reelers. Moreover, in order to meet the need for fieldmen demonstrators, the annual appointment of two apprentices at Jorhat and two at Karimganj has been sanctioned.

Experiment and Research.

115. New stations were opened at Khagrabari in Kamrup for sugarcane experiments on a large scale and with steam tackle, and at Karimganj for experiments in the culture of rice. At Jorhat striking results were obtained from the use of ground limestone together with green manure, and the agricultural chemist devoted his time to soil investigation work and analyses of sugarcane. The exotic varieties of cane—B 147 and B 376—continued to show their superiority over local varieties. Good work was also done at the fruit station in Shillong and a large crop of potatoes was realised at the farm and sold as seed mainly in the Khasi Hills. At Karimganj an experiment in the line breeding of rice was initiated in consultation with the Economic Botanist of Bengal and the Entomological Assistant made a useful survey of the insect pests that attack the main crops of the province.

Demonstration.

116. Manurial demonstrations with bonemeal and flour phosphate were made with success in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and in Sibsagar, but in Kamrup and Sylhet floods prevented definite results. In Kamrup and Sibsagar roller iron mills for crushing sugarcane and in Sylhet and Kamrup improved weaving looms were sent out and were much appreciated, but without aid from co-operative societies or otherwise few cultivators can afford to purchase them. Dry cultivation on terraces proved a failure in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, was considered a most unattractive substitute for *jhuming* by the Lushais and made but slow progress in the Naga Hills. In the two former districts experiments will be made with wet rice cultivation, but an assistant has been appointed to try terrace cultivation in the Garo Hills.

Demonstrations in the grafting and budding of fruit trees were made in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and in the Lushai Hills, and in the latter district the cultivation of fruit is reported to be increasing in popularity.

At Nakachari a most interesting experiment was made by an honorary correspondent who, by planting only two instead of from 6 to 10 seedlings in a bunch, obtained an increase of 44·2 per cent. in the yield of paddy.

Sericulture.

117. Experiments were made with French silkworm seed and with cellular eggs sent from France by M. Leon Delonca, who has been cross breeding in order to produce a worm that will thrive in Assam. Both kinds did well, but the Delonca cocoons were slightly heavier and gave a larger outturn of raw silk.

Live stock.

118 Breeding operations were continued at Upper Shillong and 8 bulls were sold, but the practice of lending bulls for breeding purposes was discontinued as the animals were neglected by the borrowers. Sheep did not do well and do not seem to thrive on the Khasi plateau. Poultry breeding was continued at Aijal, but in the Lushai villages, English breeds, with the exception of Langshans, have practically died out.

Shows.

119. An agricultural show was held successfully in Shillong on the 1st September, a date which suited vegetable and field crops, and the Siems and other Khasis interested in agriculture were conducted over the Upper Shillong station in July.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Miscellaneous.

120. A weaving master was employed throughout the year and made very successful demonstrations at Beani Bazar, Palasbari, and other places. The Salvation Army loom, though regarded with much favour by the weavers, was found to be too expensive, but the weaving master was able to show that the ordinary loom could be improved considerably at a small cost. He also assisted in organising a weavers' co-operative society at Beani Bazar. Another society of weavers was formed at Sualkuchi and the bye-laws of several societies near Palasbari were altered to admit of co-operative methods of production and sale. A depôt for the supply of seeds, manures, implements, etc., was opened at Gauhati, and seed was supplied to several co-operative societies. At Upper Shillong arrangements are being made to crush bones for sale to Khasi cultivators.

SECTION 2.—Co-operative Societies.

[*See* Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Assam for the year ending the 31st March 1914; Statistics of British India, Part II.]

Strength.

121. During the year the number of societies rose from 185 with 10,945 members to 249 with 13,629 members, and their aggregate working capital rose from Rs. 5,56,098 to Rs. 6,84,805. The number of central banks and unions did not alter, but agricultural societies increased from 164 to 224 and non-agricultural societies from 15 to 16. The number of members increased in all except the non-agricultural societies, in which it fell from 1,733 to 1,672.

Central banks and unions.

122. The total working capital of central banks and unions amounted to Rs. 1,71,417 and their total profits to Rs. 6,096-8-8. Of these sums the central banks at Shillong and Silchar accounted for Rs. 1,60,717 and Rs. 5,522-15-11, respectively. The Shillong bank issues loans to societies only, but loans from the Silchar bank are also taken by individual members. In 1913-14 such loans amounted to Rs. 12,722, of which the major portion was issued for repayment of old debts, purchase of land, marriage expenses and house building.

Of the banking unions those at Golaghat and Jorhat did useful work, but that at Sibsagar showed a loss of Rs. 29-1-3. The unions at Palasbari and Salchapra did excellent work in supervising their affiliated societies, but that at Gauripur showed little improvement.

Agricultural societies.

123. The total capital of agricultural societies rose from Rs. 2,34,750 to Rs. 2,89,612, of which deposits by members accounted for 31·30 per cent. This percentage was less than that in the previous year, but, as loans are no longer given by Government, the deposits were probably all genuine. The total amount of loans issued was Rs. 1,44,422-8-5, of which the major portion was for repayment of old debts purchase of cattle, agricultural improvements and trade. The profits of these societies amounting to Rs. 13,363-5-1 were carried to the reserve fund. Two societies in Sylhet and one in Cachar had to be wound up during the year and some of the smaller societies formed out of the former mauza societies in the Assam Valley did not work well and needed more local supervision.

Non-agricultural societies.

124. Capital increased from Rs. 1,80,251 to Rs. 2,23,776, of which deposits from members accounted for 36·94 per cent. and deposits from non-members for 23·61 per cent. Loans to the amount of Rs. 1,09,821 were issued, mainly for repayment of old debts, purchase of land, house building and trade. An interesting experiment was the formation of a society as a co-operative dairy and stores.

Reserve funds.

125. The reserve funds of central banks and unions increased from Rs. 4,108-15-2 to Rs. 6,125-5-11, mainly owing to the expansion of the two central banks. Agricultural societies showed an increase from Rs. 32,689-8-0 to Rs. 40,091-1-5 and non-agricultural societies from Rs. 10,404-3-5 to Rs. 12,863-1-8. The banking unions still suffered from a difficulty in obtaining funds and those at Sibsagar and Dibrugarh were practically stagnant throughout the year. Agricultural societies however seem to be gaining public confidence and their deposits from non-members increased from Rs. 5,463 to Rs. 10,774.

General.

126. The increase in the number of societies was considerable, but further supervision is essential, and the Local Administration therefore proposes to appoint an officer who will be able to devote more personal attention to the societies than is possible under existing arrangements. Hitherto societies have confined themselve mainly to credit business, but the formation of a dairy society at Sunamganj and of weaving societies in Sylhet and Kamrup and the purchase of improved sugar-crushing mills by some societies in Kamrup would seem to point to a gradual recognition of a wider filed for co-operative activity.

SECTION 3.—Weather and Crops.

[*See* Report on Season and Crops of Assam for the year ending 31st March 1914 ; Agricultural Statistics of British India, Volume I, Appendix A.]

Weather.

127. In the Brahmaputra Valley the rainfall was below the normal in April and from June to September, but in May and in the autumn and winter it was in excess. The deficiency from June to September was unfavourable to rice crops and the excess in the rest of the year did some damage to oilseeds.

In the Surma Valley rainfall was in excess from March till August and caused heavy floods in July. In August and September and in the autumn rainfall was in defect, but in the winter it was again above normal. The floods caused serious damage to autumn and broadcast winter rice and to jute, but the weather was on the whole favourable to spring rice and oilseeds, and transplanted rice received benefit from silt deposited by the floods.

Crops.

128. The area under autumn rice fell from 8,26,846 acres to 8,12,961 acres, mainly owing to the floods in the Surma Valley. On the other hand the eagerness of cultivators in Sylhet to transplant rice after the floods subsided led to a rise in the area under winter rice from 34,43,572 acres in 1912-13 to 35,14,086 acres in 1913-14. The area under spring rice, which is grown mainly in Sylhet, but the cultivation of which is being extended to Goalpara by immigrants from Mymensingh, showed no marked variation.

Sugarcane, oilseeds and jute show a small increase in area, owing to favourable weather and the expansion of jute cultivation in Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong.

Cotton showed a slight decrease owing to lack of rain in the sowing season, and the area under maize and crops grown for silk was also somewhat smaller.

Outturn and prices.

129. The outturn of the rice crop showed a decrease of 6,07,965 tons, mainly owing to the floods in the Surma Valley. Exports were also large and the average retail price rose from Rs. 4·238 per maund at the beginning of the year to Rs. 5·378 per maund in October, and then fell to Rs. 4·418 by the close of the year.

In spite of damage in the Surma Valley favourable conditions elsewhere maintained the outturn of jute at 79 per cent. of the normal and an actual increase of 1,539 bales was produced. The outturn of oilseeds rose from 88 to 91 per cent. of the normal, but sugarcane fell from 102 to 99 per cent. owing to unfavourable weather in some districts.

The price of pulse remained almost stationary, but mustard and *gur* showed a moderate fall.

General.

130. On the whole the year was not unfavourable. Cultivators benefited by the high prices of rice and jute, and, in the Surma Valley, the serious losses caused by floods in July and lack of rain in August and September should be recouped in a large measure by heavier crops in future from areas in which silt was deposited.

SECTION 4.—Forests.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Assam for 1913-14, and Statistics of British India Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Area and Settlement.

131. Only 265 acres were added during the year to the area of reserved forests, which remained approximately at 4,381 square miles. In unclassed State forests 1,26,684 acres were added and 1,99,337 acres were excluded, the total area decreasing from 18,514 to 18,401 square miles.

The main work of the year was the examination of unclassed State forests with a view to reservation in order to protect and cultivate high class timber and to supply local needs. At the beginning of the year 182·4 square miles were under settlement and 107 square miles were taken in hand during the year, a special officer being appointed for the Longai-Singla area of 28 square miles in Sylhet. In addition proposals affecting 386 square miles in the Western Circle were prepared and submitted to Government, and in the Eastern Circle, although proceedings with regard to the Langting Mupa reserve of 118 square miles were cancelled, the settlement of 65 square miles in the Sibsagar and Naga Hills districts and of 102 square miles in the North Cachar Hills was under consideration. In the Cachar district also various areas were examined in conjunction with the local authorities and planting interests with a view to possible disforestation.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Working plans.

132. No new working plans were sanctioned or under preparation, but attempts were made in the Garo Hills and Cachar to regularise work by rough schemes for felling coupes. Lack of demand for timber and difficulties of transport interfered with work in several reserves and the examination of areas proposed for reservation also hindered the preparation of plans. In both circles complaint is made that the trained staff is inadequate.

Communication and buildings.

133. On new buildings Rs. 52,026, on 252 miles of new paths, roads and bridges Rs. 90,338, and on maintenance Rs. 44,559 were spent during the year. The main expenditure was on the conversion of the Kachugaon tramway for steam traffic and the provision of rolling stock for it at a cost of Rs. 43,821. In Lakhimpur Rs. 19,000 were spent on opening out areas leased to a company, which unfortunately went into liquidation during the year. Road making progressed well on the whole and proved remunerative, but lack of funds and staff for the construction of more expensive roads and bridges has resulted in the exhaustion of small accessible areas, while the bulk of the timber remains untouched. A further sum of Rs. 2,700 was spent on the Kulsi river *bund*, but the attempt to close the channel was not successful.

Forest offences and protection.

134. Forty-one cases were pending from the previous year and 656 new cases were reported. In 18 cases offenders were not detected and in 183 cases brought to court there were 125 convictions and 21 acquittals.

The area specially protected from fire rose from 1,099 to 1,137 square miles, at a cost of Rs. 7,217. Of this area 14½ square miles were burned, all the fires occurring in the Western Circle. Efforts were made to protect partially about 293 square miles in Goalpara at a cost of Rs. 1,221, but fire destroyed 14·8 per cent. of this area.

There was no alteration in the area open for grazing, but, in order to check the immigration of cattle into the province, it was decided to raise the fees to Rs. 8 per buffalo and Re. 1 per cow in the Assam Valley.

Rubber.

135. The Charduar rubber plantation was extended by 50 acres and the training of aerial roots to obtain more surface for tapping was continued here and in the Kulsi plantation. In the latter trees are dying in places owing to the failure of the *bund* to prevent flooding.

At Kulsi 780 trees were tapped and yielded 2·18 lbs. per tree, and at Charduar the average for 3,732 trees was 2·4 lbs., the cost being respectively Re. 0-8-1½ and Re. 0-7-8 per lb. 10,588 lbs. of cleaned rubber were despatched and sold in London at rates of Re. 1-9-9 and Re. 1-11-3 respectively.

Planting out of rubber and *ajhar* seedlings in the Dibrugarh division was continued.

Sylviculture.

136. *Cham* seeded well in Cachar and the *muli* bamboo has established itself again. *Sâl* seeding was poor in Goalpara and Darrang, but fair elsewhere. Climber cutting and, in Goalpara and Nowgong, burning were carried out, but the latter process did not prove successful owing to early rains and lack of funds for cutting undergrowth. Transplantation of *simal* also gave unsatisfactory results owing to the rapid growth of grass and climbers, but a promising experiment was made in the Dibru reserve, in parts of which Miri villagers were allowed to *jhum* on condition that they establish *simal* plants in their *jhums*.

General.

137. The failure of the Naharkatiya Company resulted in a serious loss to Government as much money had been spent on opening out the forests leased to the Company.

Further experiments were made to test the possibility of converting various kinds of timber into railway sleepers and advantage was taken of the botanical survey, which is being made by a special officer, to revise and extend the list of reserved trees.

Timber for tea boxes was scarce, and, in Cachar, where many logs were washed away by floods, the Lakhipur mills had to be closed temporarily. In order to enable full advantage to be taken of the concession the period during which timber for tea boxes may be had free of royalty was extended to January 1st, 1915.

The working of elephant *mahals* was modified to ensure rest from *Khedda* operations for 8 out of 10 years in each *mahal*.

The work of the subordinate establishment was not satisfactory and out of a total of 299 guards and peons there were 57 casualties, of which 48 were due to dismissal, discharge or resignation.

Forest villages.

138. Two new villages were established in Kamrup and Darrang and one village in Cachar was abandoned by its inhabitants.

Finance.

139. Information under this head is included in Chapter V—"Revenue and Finance."

Gross receipts fell from Rs. 11,33,228 to Rs. 10,92,878 and expenditure increased from Rs. 8,15,671 to Rs. 9,16,657. The decline in receipts was confined to the Western Circle and was due mainly to the closing of the elephant *mahals* in Nowgong and Kamrup, to the sale of rubber in London instead of Calcutta, whereby higher prices were obtained but the money was not realised in time for inclusion in the year's revenue, and to temporary interference with timber extraction by the conversion for steam traffic of the Kachugaon tramway. The increase in expenditure is attributed mainly to the conversion of this tramway, to expenditure on and losses in connection with the leased forests in Lakhimpur and to the entertainment of a Special Settlement Officer in Sylhet.

SECTION 5.—Manufacture and Mines.

Tea. 140. The number of gardens increased from 746 to 752 and the acreage under tea rose from 361,003 to 367,549 acres, which represented about 29 per cent. of the total area of plantations. Of the area under tea 94 per cent. was plucked and yielded 199,721,950, lbs. of manufactured tea, an increase of ·46 per cent. on the outturn of the previous year, though the outturn of green tea fell from 977,528 to 468,858 lbs. The permanent labour force increased by 13,030, while the temporary force decreased by 134 persons.

Weather. 141. In the Assam Valley weather conditions were favourable on the whole, but in the Surma Valley damage was done in Cachar by hailstorms in April, and in June and July low-lying gardens throughout the valley suffered severely from floods.

Prices. 142. Prices were favourable, Surma Valley tea advancing about 13 per cent. over the figures for the previous year and tea from the Assam Valley advancing 5·5 per cent. in London and 8·8 per cent. in Calcutta. Tea seed, however, fetched lower prices and exports fell from 15,341 to 7,671 maunds.

Minerals. 143. Five prospecting licenses were issued during the year, one for coal, two for gold and allied minerals, one for tin and wolfram and one for oil.

The output of the coalmines in Lakhimpur fell from 273,387 to 270,428 tons in 1913; and, in the revenue year, the amount realised as royalty fell from Rs. 43,414 in 1912-13 to Rs. 33,914. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills the output of coal also fell from 545 to 498 tons and no coal was extracted from the new mine in the Naga Hills. The oil wells in Lakhimpur however increased their output to 4,688,628 gallons and the amount of royalty realised rose to Rs. 25,497.

In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills 80,412 tons and in the Manipur State 115½ tons of limestone were quarried. No corundum was extracted during the year.

SECTION 6.—Factories.

144. Fifteen factories were working during the year, one saw mill at work in 1913 having been closed. The factories were classified as follows:—

Factories.	Districts.	Number.
Printing Presses... ...	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	2
Railway workshops ...	Lakhimpur, Nowgong and Sibsagar ...	3
Colliery ,, ...	Lakhimpur	1
Petroleum Refinery ...	Lakhimpur	1
Pottery	Lakhimpur	1
Saw mills	Lakhimpur (4), Cachar, Sylhet and Darrang	7
	Total	15

The average daily number of workers fell from 2,901 in 1913 to 2,822. Adult males decreased by 131, but adult females increased by 23 and children by 29. With the exception of the saw mills in Cachar and Darrang and of one factory in Lakhimpur all the factories were inspected once during the year. The Chief Inspector makes no adverse comments on any of the factories in the province, no breaches of the law were reported and no prosecutions were undertaken. The number of accidents rose from 4 to 9, of which 8 were minor and 1 was serious.

SECTION 7.—Maritime Trade.

Nil.

SECTION 8.—Rail and River-borne trade.

[*See* Report on the trade of Assam carried by rail and river during the year 1913-14.]

General.

145. Climatic conditions on the whole were not favourable to cultivation. In the Surma Valley floods caused serious damage to rice and jute and the weather was not favourable to spring rice and oilseed crops in the Assam Valley. Imports rose from 6,439,133 maunds in 1912-13 to 9,658,996 maunds, valued at Rs. 7,62,47,032, and exports, while diminishing in quantity from 13,024,136 maunds to 12,778,352 maunds, rose in value to Rs. 13,56,97,456. The value of the total trade between Assam and other provinces rose from Rs. 18,86,22,669 in 1912-13 to Rs. 21,19,44,488, of which 58·5 per cent. was with Bengal, 35·5 per cent. with Calcutta and 5·1 per cent. with Bihar and Orissa.

Principal imports and exports.

146. The principal imports were manufactured cotton, grain and pulse, iron and steel, and luxuries including apparel, provisions, spices, sugar, tobacco and liquor. The following table shows the value of these imports for the whole province and for each of the three trade blocks for which there is separate registration :—

——	Manufactured cotton. Lakhs of rupees.	Grain and pulse. Lakhs of rupees.	Iron and steel. Lakhs of rupees.	Luxuries. Lakhs of rupees.	Total. Lakhs of rupees.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Upper Assam	44·45	35·63	66·05	29·07	175·20
Lower Assam	48·45	20·36	20·03	33·26	122·10
Surma Valley	84·49	59·84	50·47	73·02	267·82
Provincial total ...	177·39	115·83	136·55	135·35	565·12

The principal exports were tea, jute and rice. The following table shows the value of these exports for the whole province and for each trade block.

——	Tea. Lakhs of rupees.	Jute. Lakhs of rupees.	Rice. Lakhs of rupees.	Total. Lakhs of rupees.
1	2	3	4	5
Upper Assam	485·32	9·39	·51	495·22
Lower Assam	72·72	100·25	36·18	209·15
Surma Valley	395.07	12·89	77·54	485·19
Provincial total	953·11	122·53	114·23	1,189·56

The percentage of the trade of each block in these principal imports and exports and in their total is shown in the following table :—

——	Principal imports.	Principal exports.	Total.
1	2	3	4
Upper Assam	31·02	41·63	38·22
Lower Assam	21·60	17·58	18·89
Surma Valley	47·38	40·79	42·89
Total	100·00	100 00	100·00

The value of each of these principal imports and exports was greater than in the previous year, the most marked increase being in imported grain and pulse, which rose from a value of Rs. 51·1 lakhs to Rs. 115·8 lakhs. Damage done by floods to rice crops in the Surma Valley was mainly responsible for this great increase. Exports of rice indeed increased in value and came mainly from the Surma Valley, but the increase was due to a rise in price from an average of Rs. 3-13-0 in 1912-13 to an average of Rs. 6 in 1913-14, and there was an actual decrease of exported rice in the husk from 4,852,396 maunds to 3,993,924 maunds.

Other imports and exports.

147. There was a marked increase in the value of imported coal and of exported raw silk from Rs. 2·5 lakhs and Rs. 2·9 lakhs to Rs. 11·5 and Rs. 13·0 lakhs respectively. Imports of kerosine oil, mustard oil and salt and exports of raw cotton, hides and timber also showed an increase in value varying from Rs. 1·5 lakhs in the case of salt to Rs. 9·4 lakhs in the case of timber.

SECTION 9.—Frontier Trade.

Registration.

148. The registration of frontier trade was placed under the control of Deputy Commissioners and the Political Officer at Sadiya with effect from May 1913, and from April 1913 returns of imports of rubber and timber were discontinued.

Trade.

149. The total value of frontier trade rose from Rs. 26,89,124 in 1912-13 to Rs. 34,87,814, of which imports accounted for Rs. 18,72,865.

Bhutan.

150. Imports, mainly of woollen goods, spices and musk, were valued at Rs. 17,71,159 and exports, mainly of silk and cotton goods, were valued at Rs. 15,62,944. The increase in trade is attributed to improved registration, to the maintenance of the Kokalabari station throughout the year and to a visit paid to Dewangiri by the Maharaja of Bhutan, for whom large purchases were made.

Towang and Chardnar Bhutias.

151. Imports were valued at Rs. 35,775 and exports at Rs. 6,158. The small attendance of Towang Bhutias and the continued decrease in the number of ponies brought for sale account for the fall in the value of imports.

Akas and Daflas.

152. Imports fell from Rs. 25,789 to Rs. 2,843 and exports rose from Rs. 857 to Rs. 2,742. The discontinuance of returns of imported rubber accounts almost entirely for the fall in the value of imports, but the number of Akas and Daflas visiting the plains decreased, possibly owing to the presence of the Survey Party in these hills.

Abors and Mishmi, etc.

153. Imports decreased from Rs. 1,72,100 to Rs. 63,088, but exports rose from Rs. 12,537 to Rs. 43,105. The fall in imports is accounted for by the discontinuance of registration of rubber and timber and a decline in the boom of Mishmi dying materials. Opium alone was responsible for the increase in the value of exports.

General.

154. No tax or impost is known to be levied on exports by any of the frontier tribes, but a duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, in addition to royalty, is levied on musk, wax, rubber and *Mishmi tita* at Sadiya and on rubber at Jaypur and Margherita.

SECTION 10.—Public Works.

155. During the year the headquarters of the Assam Circle of Superintendence were moved from Shillong to Jorhat, and Mr. Duguid, Temporary Engineer, was attached to the office of the Chief Engineer for the preparation and supervision of sanitary projects.

Imperial works.

156. Quarters for a Sergeant Instructor of the Surma Valley Light Horse were begun at Dullabcherra and work was in progress on the construction of a rifle range at Makum junction and the strengthening of the armoury at Tezpur for the Assam Valley Light Horse.

The telegraph office at Gauhati and the post and telegraph office at Barpeta were completed, a house was acquired for the office and residenceof the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, at Silchar and materials were collected for a new post office at Shamshernagar.

Provincial works.

157. Expenditure on original works amounted to Rs. 9,27,847 and on repairs to Rs. 1,89,188.

Official residences.

158. Improvements at a cost of Rs. 14,405 were made to Government House at Shillong and to the Chateau at Upper Shillong.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Temporary residences were made for four officers at Sadiya and for an Assistant Surgeon at Mokokchang. A residence was built for a Sub-Deputy Collector at Sidli and out-houses for the Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong and the Subdivisional Officer of Hailakandi, and the residence of the Subdivisional Officer at Lungleh was reconstructed.

Work was also in progress on residences for the Superintending Engineer, Deputy Conservator of Forests, and three officers of the Provincial Service at Jorhat; for the Settlement Officer, the sisters of the Lady Minto Nursing Association, the Inspector of Schools and the Headmaster of the High School at Silchar, for an Additional District Magistrate at Sylhet, an Assistant Superintendent of Police at Habiganj and an Assistant Conservator of Forests at Jaipur.

Administration.

159. Quarters were built for political clerks at Lungleh and Sadiya and work was in progress on a settlement office at Silchar, an office for a Sub-Deputy Collector at Jorhat and on improvements to the treasury buildings at Habiganj, Hailakandi and Tezpur.

Law and Justice.

160. A mortuary was built at Habiganj and others were under construction a Moran, Dhakuakhana, Bordolani and Maulvi Bazar, the court-house at Haflong was being constructed and that at Karimganj was being extended.

Circuithouses.

161. At Haflong and Cherrapunji circuit-houses were in process of construction and improvements were made to those at Sylhet, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Habiganj, Maulvi Bazar, Gauhati, Goalpara, Dhubri, Sibsagar and Tezpur.

Education.

162. New buildings, quarters and hostels were built for the Cotton College additional accommodation was provided at the Pine Mount School at Shillong and the high schools at Maulvi Bazar, Tezpur and Jorhat, and school hostels were constructed at North Lakhimpur, Kakojan and Sylhet.

Preparations were made for the new buildings of the Murarichand College at Sylhet, progress was made with the provision of increased accommodation for the girls' schools at Gauhati and Sylhet, for the collegiate school at Gauhati and for the school at Jorhat, and the construction of a new school at Aijal and of a hospital for the Cotton College was undertaken.

Jails.

163. Various improvements were made and additional buildings constructed at the jails at Silchar, Kohima, Tezpur, and Dibrugarh. Work was in progress for the provision of masonry enclosure walls and other improvements to the Dibrugarh, Nowgong, Kohima, North Lakhimpur, Golaghat and Mangaldai jails and a new jail was under construction at Habiganj.

Police.

164. Police buildings or offices were constructed at Gowainghat, Cherrapunji, Sorbhog, Udarband, Gauhati and Dibrugarh. A hospital at Dhubri and a ward at Kohima were also completed and progress was made with buildings at various other places and with the temporary lines for the Military Police at Sadiya.

Medical.

165. Improvements were made to the dispensaries at Kohima, Wokha and Mokokchang. At Dibrugarh additional accommodation and an X-ray installation were provided at the Berry White Medical School and an office was constructed for the Civil Surgeon. Improvements to the Haflong hospital were in progress and preparations were made for building a central lunatic asylum at Tezpur.

Other Departments.

166. Various other works, mainly the building of offices and quarters, were completed or in progress for the Excise, Registration, Agricultural, and Public Works Departments, the most noteworthy of which were the various buildings required at Jorhat by the removal thither of the headquarters of the Superintending Engineer, Assam Circle. An explosives magazine was also under construction at Chhatak.

Communications.

167. The outlay on original works amounted to Rs. 25,55,653, of which Rs. 1,33,792 were spent on bridges, Rs. 13,72,231 on new cart roads, Rs. 29,279 on bridle-paths, Rs. 86,895 on dâk and inspection bungalows and Rs. 9,32,273 on improvements to existing roads.

The major portion of these sums was spent on extending, improving, metalling, and providing with masonry or iron bridges the Lohit Valley, Kobo-Pasighat and Sadiya-Nizamghat roads on the North-East Frontier (Rs. 15,26,566), the Dimapur-Manipur road (Rs. 4,15,913), the Assam Trunk road (Rs. 2,30,972) and the North Trunk road (Rs. 1,06,186).

Eight new inspection bungalows were constructed on the old and new Sema roads in the Naga Hills, new bungalows were under construction at Margherita, Silghat Dannalgiri, Bokakhat, Gabru and Panigaon and improvements to 9 other bungalows were in progress.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Expenditure on repairs, including the maintenance of dâk and inspection bungalows, amounted to Rs. 10,76,920 and included 400·46 miles of metalled and 3,712·18 miles of unmetalled roads and bridle paths.

Miscellaneous.

168. Various improvements to the Haflong station, a pipe water-supply installation at Tura and work for protecting the river bank at Dibrugarh were completed. Improvements to the *maidans* at Silchar and Jorhat were in progress and preparations were made for improvements to the town of Dimapur.

Contribution works.

169. The improvements to the Gauhati water-works specified in last year's report, with the exception of meters on private connections, were completed during the year, and Rs. 19,054, of which the Municipality contributed Rs. 15,020, were spent on maintenance charges.

The substitution of galvanised for black iron pipes at Haflong and the construction of water-works at Jorhat were nearly completed.

The building of an operation room for the Dhubri hospital and work on the dispensaries at Tezpur, Silchar, Dibrugarh, and Gauhati were in progress during the year.

A madrasa was under construction at Goalpara, the municipal section of the Peterganj road at Sylhet was metalled, a screw-pile bridge at Hailakandi was nearly completed and spurs were made to protect the banks of the Kullong river in Nowgong.

The estimated cost of projects made over to the department by Local Boards up to the end of the year was Rs. 13,23,599 and expenditure during the year on these projects amounted to Rs. 10,41,827.

Minor Works and Navigation.

170. Snags were removed from the Ranganadi, Desang, Barak, and Dhaleswar rivers and from the Jita and Kaya *Khals*. The mouths of the Dihing and Desang rivers were improved by bandalling, the removal of rocky shoals from the Kullong river was in progress and the dredging of its mouth was completed.

Railways and Tramways.

171. During the year an addition of 24·32 miles, the branch line of the Eastern Bengal State Railway from Rangia in Kamrup to Tangla in Darrang, was opened to traffic and brought the open mileage for the province to 914·07 miles. Particulars of the railways are given in the following table :—

Railway.	Gauge.	Open mileage.	Gross capital outlay, including suspense account.	Gross earnings.	Working expenses.	Nett earnings.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Ft. inches.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Eastern Bengal State Railway (Assam Portion).	3 3½	185·67	...	...	...	...
Jorhat Provincial State Railway ...	2	32·50	10,64,858	1,30,085	90,239	39,846
Assam-Bengal Railway	3 3½	584·28	...	...	...	...
Dibru-Sadiya Railway	3 3½	91·52	1,08,20,066	13,54,970	7,51,810	6,03,130
Ledo-Tikak-Margherita Colliery Railway.	...	...	16,94,069	93,069	51,247	41,822
Tezpur-Balipara Railway	2 6	20·10	4,87,240	1,34,638	94,149	40,489

The Kusiara-Sylhet section of the Kulaura-Sylhet branch line of the Assam Bengal Railway was under construction during the year, but the extensive damage done by the floods of July 1913 will probably delay its opening till the middle of 1915. The first section of the Dwara-Tharia Railway was completed and passed for goods traffic shortly after the close of the year, but has since been damaged seriously by floods. Alternative proposals to construct the Chaparmukh-Nowgong-Silghat railway, on a 2′ 6″ or a metre gauge, were still under the consideration of the Railway Board at the close of the year.

A realignment of the first 5 miles of the Sealtek-Lalabazar Light Railway project on a 2′ gauge was surveyed during the year and surveys were also in progress for the Sylhet-Thariaghat railway, 22 miles, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, for a Silchar-Tikalpur line 14 miles, 2′ gauge, and for a Silchar-Dwarband line, 22 miles, 2′ gauge. The estimate for a survey of a revised alignment of the last named project by Messrs. Martin & Co. has since been submitted to the Railway Board.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Assistance rendered to Local Bodies.

172. Projects of an aggregate value of Rs. 9,72,524 were prepared for local bodies in divisional offices, and, of these, projects costing Rs 1,66,615 were made over to the department for execution. Estimates for the expenditure of Rs. 5,87,194 on other works were examined and checked on behalf of local bodies and their works were inspected regularly by Executive Engineers. The accounts of these bodies were also audited and compiled in divisional offices.

Cost of Establishment.

173. The expenditure of the department, under all heads, aggregated Rs. 64,03,582, of which Rs. 7,23,722 and Rs. 63,536, or 12·85 per cent. of the outlay on work carried out by the department, were actually spent on establishment and tools and plant, respectively. The total revenue of the department amounted to Rs. 93,349, of which rents of buildings accounted for Rs. 51,096.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—GROSS REVENUE.

179. The revenue and expenditure of the Province for the financial year 1913-14 are shown in the following tables :—

Receipts during 1913-14.

Heads of Account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Principal Heads of Revenue—			
I.—Land Revenue	34,646	78,51,912	78,86,558
II.—Opium	5,41,552	...	5,41,552
III.—Salt	897	...	897
IV.—Stamps	6,99,599	6,99,598	13,99,197
V.—Excise	...	52,58,690	52,58,690
VI.—Provincial Rates	...	11,782	11,782
VII.—Customs	...	...	...
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	2,13,534	2,13,533	4,27,067
IX.—Forest	....	10,97,969	10,97,969
X.—Registration...	...	1,08,711	1,08,711
XI.—Tribute	50,100	...	50,100
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue ...	15,40,328	1,52,42,195	1,67,82,523
B.—Interest—			
XII.—Interest	...	24,239	24,239
D.—Receipts by Civil Departments—			
XVI—A.—Law and Justice—Courts ...	...	1,25,675	1,25,675
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails	...	91,622	91,622
XVII.—Police	...	1,22,398	1,22,398
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	...	...	...
XIX.—Education	...	1,34,639	1,34,639
XX.—Medical	...	23,920	23,920
XXI.—Scientific and Minor Departments ...	...	18,418	18,418
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments ...	...	5,16,672	5,16,672
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts—			
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation ...	20,401	4,391	24,792
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	388	7,633	8,019
XXV.—Miscellaneous	7,455	46,657	54,112
Total E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts ...	28,242	58,681	86,923
H.—Railways—			
XXVI.—State Railways (Gross receipts) ...	...	1,23,804	1,23,804
Deduct working expenses ...	...	89,498	89,498
Nett Railway Receipts ...	...	34,306	34,306
J.—Irrigation—			
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation ...	...	....	...
K.—Other Public Works—			
XXXI.—Civil Works (Civil)	...	68,754	68,754
Ditto (Public Works) ...	1,740	81,853	83,593
Total K.—Other Public Works ...	1,740	1,50,607	1,52,347
L.—Military Receipts—			
XXXIV.—Military Works	7,301	...	7,301
Grand Total	15,77,611	1,60,26,700	1,76,04,311

Expenditure during 1913-14.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Direct demands on the revenue—			
1. Refunds and drawbacks	12,736	20,197	32,573
2. Assignments and compensation	31,330	16,319	47,649
3. Land revenue	...	14,99,265	14,99,265
5. Salt	903	...	903
6. Stamps	29,692	29,691	59,383
7. Excise	...	1,14,400	1,14,400
8. Provincial rates	...	...	...
9. Customs	...	...	...
10. Assessed taxes	2,331	2,332	4,663
11. Forests	...	9,10,240	9,10,240
12. Registration	...	58,611	58,611
Total A.—Direct demands on the revenue ...	76,632	26,51,055	27,27,687
B.—Interest—			
13. Interest on ordinary debt	...	33,759	33,759
14. Interest on other obligations { Civil ...	19,968	...	19,968
14. Interest on other obligations { Public Works...	989	...	989
Total B.—Interest	20,957	33,759	54,716
D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments—			
18. General Administration	1,40,532	5,83,597	7,24,129
19A. Law and Justice (Courts)	...	9,33,847	9,33,847
19B. Law and Justice (Jails)	...	2,72,177	2,72,177
20. Police	...	23,87,928	23,87,928
21. Ports and pilotage	...	60,902	60,902
22. Education	...	12,15,892	12,15,892
23. Ecclesiastical	16,765	...	16,765
24. Medical...	...	6,77,255	6,77,255
25. Political	...	16,15,495	16,15,495
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	10,283	2,76,058	2,86,341
Total D.—Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments	1,67,580	80,23,151	81,90,731

GROSS REVENUE.

Expenditure during 1913-14—concld.

Heads of Account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
E.—Miscellaneous—			
27. Territorial and Political Pensions ...	4,511	...	4,511
28. Civil furlough & absentee allowance ...	...	...	...
29. Superannuation allowances, etc. ...	...	2,83,152	2,83,152
30. Stationery and Printing	613	1,65,328	1,65,941
32. Miscellaneous	16,071	3,82,187	3,98,258
Total E.—Miscellaneous	21,195	8,30,667	8,51,862
F.—Famine Relief and Insurance	...	...	...
H.—Railway Revenue and Accounts			
40. Subsidised Companies	...	5,112	5,112
41. Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure ...	...	—465	—465
Total H.—Railways	...	4,647	4,647
I.—Irrigation—			
43. Minor Works and Navigation—Public Works.	...	1,15,211	1,15,211
K.—Other Public Works—			
44. Construction of Railways	...	21,213	21,213
45. Civil Works, Civil	...	9,77,003	9,77,003
Ditto, Public Works	42,078	56,40,265	56,82,343
Total K.—Other Public Works ...	42,078	66,38,481	66,80,559
L.—Military Works Services—			
47.—Military Works (Ordinary)	54,145	...	54,145
Grand Total	3,82,587	1,82,96,971	1,86,79,558

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure during 1913-14.

	1912-13.			1913-14.			1913-14 compared with 1912-13.			
							Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Difference.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Difference.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Principal Heads of Revenue	1,61,69,897	25,18,143	+1,36,51,754	1,67,82,523	27,27,687	+1,40,54,836	6,12,626	...	2,09,544	...
II.—Departmental Heads:—										
Interest	13,336	43,686	−30,350	24,239	54,716	−30,477	10,903	...	11,030	...
Civil Departments ...	4,57,244	66,80,407	−62,23,163	5,16,672	81,90,731	−76,74,059	59,428	...	15,10,324	...
Miscellaneous	1,13,428	7,97,434	−6,84,006	86,923	8,51,862	−7,64,939	...	26,505	54,428	...
Famine Relief and Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Railway Revenue Accounts	38,043	9,474	+28,569	34,306	4,647	+29,659	...	3,737	...	4,827
Irrigation	...	66,634	−66,634	...	1,15,211	−1,15,211	...	...	48,577	...
Other Public Works ...	1,42,704	44,40,889	−42,98,185	1,52,347	66,80,559	−65,28,212	9,643	...	22,39,670	...
Military Works Services ...	7,850	47,739	−39,889	7,301	54,145	−46,844	...	549	6,406	...
Total, Departmental Heads...	7,72,605	1,20,86,263	−1,13,13,658	8,21,788	1,59,51,871	−1,51,30,083	79,974	30,791	38,70,435	4,827
Grand Total	1,69,42,502	1,46,04,406	+23,38,096	1,76,04,311	1,86,79,558	− 10,75,247	6,92,600	30,791	40,79,979	4,827

75. The expenditure of the year compares as follows with that of 1912-13 and with the budget estimate for 1913-14:—

3.—Land Revenue.

Minor heads.	1913-14 compared with 1912-13.		1913-14 compared with budget estimate.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Charges of District Administration ...	15,000	...	...	16,000
2. Management of Government estates ...	3,000	...	...	...
3. Charges on account of Land Revenue Collections	20,000	...	...	16,000
4. Charges on account of Fishery Collection ...	...	...	...	...
5. Survey and Settlement	57,000	...	14,000	...
6. Land Records	13,000	...	4,000	...
7. Allowances to District and Village Officers ...	...	...	...	...

Compensation for dearness of provisions, owing to the high price of food grains throughout the year, and larger outlay on travelling allowances and rewards account for the increase on the figures for 1912-13 under the first and sixth heads, and the saving on the budget estimate is due to the absence on leave of senior officers and smaller outlay on law charges in Sylhet. The increase under the fifth head is due to the commencement of settlement proceedings in Cachar and the absence, at present,

of any transfer of charges for the Assam Traverse Party to the Bengal and India books. Payment was made in 1913-14 of commission on collections of land revenue made in 1912-13, but no allowance was made in the budget for similar arrears of 1913-14 being paid in 1914-15, as in fact has happened.

176. The details by minor heads of actual and estimated expenditure are shown in round figures in the following table:—

18.—General Administration.

Minor heads.	Actuals, 1912-13.	Budget, 1913-14.	Actuals, 1913-14.	Comparison with actuals, 1912-13.	Comparison with budget, 1913-14.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Salary of Chief Commissioner	51,000	56,000	56,000	+5,000	...
2. Staff and household of Chief Commissioner	44,000	34,000	37,000	−7,000	+3,000
3. Expenditure from contract allowance, etc. ...	30,000	14,000	24,000	−6,000	+10,000
4. Tour expenses	6,000	8,000	5,000	−1,000	−3,000
5. Legislative Council	14,000	5,000	11,000	−3,000	+6,000
6. Civil Secretariat	2,22,000	2,02,000	2,09,000	−13,000	+7,000
7. Board of Revenue	4,000	...	...	−4,000	...
8. Commissioners	1,39,000	1,40,000	1,28,000	−11,000	−12,000
9. Civil offices of Account and Audit—					
(*a*) Imperial	1,49,000	1,32,000	1,40,000	−9,000	+8,000
(*b*) Provincial	14,000	21,000	23,000	+9,000	+2,000
10. Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Excise, etc.	38,000	39,000	39,000	+1,000	...
11. Director of Land Records and Agriculture	43,000	43,000	52,000	+9,000	+9,000
Total	7,54,000	6,94,000	7,24,000	−30,000	+30,000

The excess of the actuals of 1912-13 over those for 1913-14 was due mainly to charges in the former year on account of the move from Dacca and to heavy initial outlay on furniture and equipment. The budget estimate of 1913-14 fell short of actual expenditure under the heads Staff and Household, Civil Offices of Account and Audit, Inspector General of Registration and Director of Land Records, mainly owing to increased charges for leave, acting and travelling allowances. Under the heads of contract allowances and Legislative Council there was some payment for liabilities incurred in the previous year and the budget provision proved to be inadequate. The absence on leave of one Commissioner and a failure to utilise a provision for purchase of elephants accounted for the savings under the head "Commissioners".

B.—IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

SECTION 1.—Land Revenue.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

177. The total ordinary land revenue demand rose from Rs. 74,55,474 to Rs. 75,11,733, of which Rs. 72,28,221, or 96·22 per cent., were collected and Rs. 7,090 were remitted. The demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue rose from Rs. 6,75,312 to Rs. 7,14,869. Rupees 3,861 were remitted and Rs. 7,13,720, or 99·84 per cent. of the demand, were collected. Land revenue.

SECTION 2.—Sources of revenue other than land revenue.

Salt. 178. The bonded warehouse at Balaganj was closed from the beginning of the year and only that at Ajmiriganj was working. Imports amounted to 43,000 maunds and clearances to 42,406 maunds, the figures for the previous year being 46,606 and 58,440, respectively. The decrease is attributed to the closing of the *Gola* at Balaganj. The wholesale price at Silchar fell by one anna to Re. 1-15-0 per maund, but the retail rate remained steady at Rs. 2-4 per maund. Nett revenue fell from Rs. 55,403 to Rs. 41,983.

Excise. Receipts and charges. 179. The revenue demand rose from Rs. 47,62,593 in 1912-13 to Rs. 52,51,867, an increase of 10·2 per cent. The increase was most marked in the Assam Valley, and was due mainly to license fees which rose by 19·5 per cent. to Rs. 18,41,479, duty advancing only 5·7 per cent. to Rs. 33,79,862. Of the demand recoverable during the year, 99·92 per cent. was realised, Rs. 3,398 were remitted and Rs. 485 remained outstanding.

The expenditure of the department rose from Rs. 1,14,609 to Rs. 1,15,385, but the ratio of expenditure to receipts fell from 2·36 to 2·19 per cent.

Country spirit. 180. Consumption of country spirit rose by 5·8 per cent. and receipts realised Rs. 15,31,667. The increase was most marked in Kamrup, Goalpara and Lakhimpur and is attributed mainly to increased prosperity and to the growth of the immigrant population. The duty will be raised further with effect from the 1st April 1915 with the object of checking consumption. The incidence of taxation per head of population remained highest in the districts of Lakhimpur (Re. 1-3-2), Sibsagar (Re. 0-9-9) and Cachar (Re. 0-5-4). The outstill system continued to be used in North Lakhimpur and in the hill districts.

The Jorhat distillery was improved and storage wastage was reduced by the use of Pfaudler glass tanks. Samples of spirits were analysed regularly and pronounced to be of excellent quality and free from deleterious substances.

Ganja. 181. Although the number of retail licenses was reduced from 245 to 240, consumption of *ganja* rose from 847 to 898 maunds, the increase being most marked in Sylhet, Sibsagar and Kamrup, and revenue rose from Rs. 6,87,193 to Rs. 7,89,507.

Opium. 182. Consumption of opium increased by 2·4 per cent. and revenue rose from 27,38,307 to Rs. 29,17,470. The increase is ascribed to greater prosperity, except in the district of Cachar, where it is attributed to the operations of smugglers from Chittagong. Three such cases were detected in this district and resulted in convictions. An additional Sub-Inspector of Excise is being appointed and careful watch will be kept.

General. 183. The committee appointed in 1912 to consider the question of opium and *ganja* consumption made their report and, with effect from April 1st, 1914, the treasury price of opium in certain districts and the rate of duty on *ganja* have been raised and the limit of private possession lowered. The minimum age for purchase has also been raised to 20 years and the number of retail opium shops has been reduced. The hours of closing for excise shops has been advanced from 8 P.M. in winter and 9 P.M. in summer to 6 P.M. and 7 P.M., respectively, and Local Boards will be used as advisory bodies in connection with rural shops.

Negotiations with the Hill Tippera Darbar in regard to excise arrangements on their border were not brought to a satisfactory conclusion during the year, but efforts are still being made to effect a settlement.

Stamps. 184. Receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts rose from Rs. 12,80,991 in the previous year to Rs. 13,38,222 and charges from Rs. 33,720 to Rs. 39,760. Non-judicial stamps yielded the greater part of the increase, namely, Rs. 40,168, and judicial stamps yielded Rs. 17,063. This reverses the ratio of increase which was observed between these two classes of stamps in 1912-13, and is ascribed to an increase in monetary transactions with and between immigrants in the Assam Valley, and, in the Surma Valley, to expansion of trade and higher prices of food grains owing to damage by floods. The number of stamp vendors rose from 335 to 351, of whom 213 were in the Sylhet district, and the discount allowed to them rose from Rs. 26,537 to Rs. 29,311. Stamp prosecutions fell from 31 in 1912-13 to 21, and the amount of fines imposed from Rs. 318 to Rs. 84.

Applications for probate and letters of administration were made to Collectors in 52 cases and in 50 of these cases inquiries were instituted.

185. Income-tax receipts rose from Rs. 4,02,463 in 1912-13 to Rs. 4,27,968, yielding a normal increase of 6·4 per cent. The number of assessees and the final demand for the year, excluding the tax on salaries of Government officials and on interest from securities, were 4,949 and Rs. 3,48,039, respectively. Income-tax.

SECTION 3.—Provincial Finance.

186.

Year.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1912-13	41,96,000	1,78,07,219	1,41,96,725	78,06,494
1913-14	78,06,494	1,60,26,700	1,82,96,971	55,36,223

Receipts. The budget estimate for 1913-14 was as follows :—Opening balance Rs. 79,51,000, receipts Rs. 1,42,49,000, expenditure Rs. 1,62,43,000. Closing balance Rs. 59,57,000. The excess of Rs. 17,77,700 over the estimated receipts was made up by an increase in ordinary revenue of Rs. 4,02,000 for which Excise, Land Revenue, Stamps, Education and Registration were mainly responsible, and by an adjustment of Rs. 14,65,000 spent for political purposes on the Lohit Valley Road. Against these sums, however, there was an assignment of Rs. 89,000 from Provincial to Imperial accounts for printing done by the Central Jail Press at Dacca.

Expenditure. In addition to the original budget grant of Rs. 1,62,43,000 further grants aggregating Rs. 25,65,000 were obtained for provincial expenditure. The bulk of this sum was composed of grants of Rs. 14,65,000 for the Lohit Valley Road and of Rs. 8,04,000 for the improvement of water-supply and communications. Actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,82,97,000 and there was thus a saving on the grants of Rs. 5,11,000.

Assignments. The opening balance of Rs. 78,06,494 included the following assignments given by the Government of India for special purposes :—

	Rs.
Education	14,07,000
Agriculture	20,000
River Police	2,83,000
Discretionary purposes	8,00,000
Sanitation	3,30,000
Forest Administration	15,000
Development	20,00,000
Total	48,55,000

During the year further special assignments were given as follows :—

	Rs.
Education	3,63,000
Agriculture	75,000
Sanitation	50,000
Medical Relief	25,000
Total	5,13,000

Out of these assignments, aggregating Rs. 53,68,000, Rs. 16,75,000 were spent during the year and Rs. 36,93,000 remained as part of the closing balance.

SECTION 4.—Local Funds.

187. The following statements show the receipts and charges during the year of those Local Funds of which an account is submitted to Government :—

A

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Local Boards in Assam during 1913-14.

Serial No.	Name of Local Board.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Dibrugarh	53,425 12 6	2,34,587 3 5	2,88,012 15 11	2,22,015 13 11	65,997 2 0
2	North Lakhimpur	22,518 3 10	81,245 1 10	1,03,763 5 8	81,273 15 4	22,489 6 4
3	Sibsagar	38,160 10 0	1,59,613 11 11	1,97,774 5 11	1,54,370 14 2	43,403 7 9
4	Jorhat	22,299 0 0	1,52,064 15 5	1,74,363 15 5	1,26,270 0 6	48,093 14 11
5	Golaghat	12,606 0 0	1,74,126 4 4	1,86,732 4 4	1,46,888 7 6	39,843 12 10
6	Nowgong	23,251 10 0	1,46,960 9 10	1,70,212 3 10	1,27,976 13 8	42,235 6 2
7	Tezpur	32,921 3 7	1,66,510 13 10	1,96,432 1 5	1,67,807 0 10	31,625 0 7
8	Mangaldai	40,774 12 9	1,68,508 4 10	2,09,283 1 7	1,57,096 0 1	52,187 1 6
9	Gauhati	64,006 2 10	2,06,200 2 6	2,70,206 5 4	1,89,284 4 7	80,922 0 9
10	Barpeta	17,514 5 4	1,02,694 12 11	1,20,209 2 3	95,220 9 11	24,988 8 4 (a)
11	Dhubri	41,111 0 8	1,56,639 6 6	1,97,750 7 2	1,16,335 14 10	81,414 8 14 (a)
12	Goalpara	20,591 11 11	80,003 11 10	1,00,595 7 9	71,652 9 0	28,942 14 9 (a)
13	Silchar	33,754 1 9	2,32,461 7 1	2,66,215 8 10	2,03,626 8 3	62,589 0 7
14	Hailakandi	21,458 5 7	1,13,503 0 8	1,34,961 5 10	1,04,501 8 3	30,459 13 7
15	North Sylhet	9,154 14 1	1,74,504 12 9	1,83,659 10 10	1,62,732 14 11	20,926 11 11
16	Habiganj	51,385 10 0	1,98,529 9 10	2,49,915 3 10	1,92,699 10 6	57,215 9 4 (a)
17	Sunamganj	12,518 14 4	1,61,421 6 0	1,73,940 4 4	1,58,413 10 2	15,526 10 2
18	South Sylhet	69,588 14 2	2,05,795 14 2	2,75,384 12 4	2,37,066 4 8	38,318 7 8 (a)
19	Karimganj	22,347 4 9	1,97,963 11 2	2,20,310 15 11	1,99,033 14 1	21,277 1 10
	Total	6,09,388 10 1	31,13,335 0 5	37,22,723 10 6	29,14,266 15 2	8,08,456 11 4

(a) Acceptance certificate awaited.

B

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Municipalities in Assam during 1913-14.

Serial No.	Name of Municipality.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payment.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Silchar	83,790 6 1	37,113 5 4	1,20,903 11 5	39,349 4 11	81,554 6 6
2	Hailakandi	2,211 6 3	4,726 4 0	6,937 10 3	4,889 5 4	2,048 4 11 (a)
3	Tezpur	4,204 14 7	27,815 1 6	32,020 0 1	27,779 14 0	4,240 2 1 (a)
4	Dhubri	28,570 10 8	48,805 5 0	77,375 15 8	30,061 0 10	47,314 14 10
5	Goalpara	1,019 3 3	11,785 15 6	12,805 2 9	10,758 14 0	2,046 4 9 (a)
6	Barpeta	4,053 2 9	36,216 7 4	40,269 10 1	27,974 13 2	12,294 12 11
7	Gauhati	19,101 13 6	84,377 10 6	1,03,479 8 0	73,615 7 9	29,864 0 3 (a)
8	Shillong	17,344 3 8	78,725 14 8	96,070 2 4	84,227 1 7	11,843 0 9
9	Dibrugarh	6,577 14 11	55,331 6 10	61,909 5 9	45,080 9 6	16,828 12 3 (a)
10	Nowgong	281 1 1	20,276 11 10	20,557 12 11	17,019 0 5	3,538 12 6 (a)
11	Golaghat	23,467 5 1	13,351 2 10	36,818 7 11	31,012 14 0	5,805 9 11
12	Jorhat	2,096 9 7	28,193 13 11	30,290 7 6	27,585 9 6	2,704 14 0
13	Sibsagar	4,445 14 9	16,536 1 11	20,982 0 8	16,378 0 1	4,604 0 7 (a)
14	Nazira	6,489 9 6	4,353 9 0	10,843 2 6	2,913 7 2	7,929 11 4 (a)
15	Habiganj	5,330 1 4	7,495 6 10	12,825 8 2	6,038 7 6	6,787 0 8 (a)
16	Sylhet	12,446 15 11	37,215 5 2	49,662 5 1	35,601 14 6	14,060 6 7
17	Karimganj	...	8,958 4 3	8,958 4 3	7,856 13 7	1,101 6 8 (a)
18	Sunamganj	...	3,629 7 2	3,629 7 2	381 14 7	3,247 8 7 (a)
	Total	2,21,431 4 11	5,24,907 5 7	7,46,338 10 6	4,88,524 8 5	2,57,814 2 1

(a) Acceptance certificate awaited.

C

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Town and Bazar Funds in Assam during 1913-14.

Serial No.	Name of Town Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	North Cachar Hills Bazar Fund ...	10,330 3 11	8,281 1 0	18,611 4 11	14,826 2 6	3,785 2 5
2	Mangaldai Town Fund ...	3,334 8 0	4,387 12 9	7,722 4 9	4,987 0 6	2,735 4 3
3	Jowai Bazar Town Fund ...	576 11 9	379 0 0	955 11 9	694 10 4	261 1 5
4	North Lakhimpur Town Fund ...	5,041 9 1	5,740 11 0	10,782 4 1	5,600 11 10	5,181 8 3
	Total ...	19,283 0 9	18,788 8 9	38,071 9 6	26,108 9 2	11,963 0 4

D

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Cantonment Funds, Chaukidari Reward Funds and the Assam Williamson Education Fund during 1913-14.

Serial No.	Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
	I.—Cantonment Funds—					
1	Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	2,493 12 6	12,128 11 1	14,622 7 7	13,216 3 11	1,406 3 8(*a*)
2	Lakhimpur	547 6 1	3,296 9 7	3,843 15 8	3,376 3 7	467 12 1
	Total ...	3,041 2 7	15,425 4 8	18,466 7 3	16,592 7 6	1,873 15 9
	II.—District Chaukidari Reward Fund—					
1	Cachar	1,792 10 6	651 13 3	2,444 7 9	1,955 0 0	489 7 9
2	Goalpara	10,502 12 1	708 11 6	11,211 7 7	619 7 0	10,592 0 7(*a*)
3	Sylhet	8,780 2 1	3,074 8 3	11,854 10 4	2,202 0 0	9,652 10 4
	Total ...	21,075 8 8	4,435 1 0	25,510 9 8	4,776 7 0	20,734 2 8
	III.—Assam Williamson Education Fund	14,552 10 0	3,920 10 8	18,473 4 8	2,202 11 9	16,270 8 11

(*a*) **Acceptance certificate awaited.**

SECTION 5.—Local Rates.

[*See* Resolution on Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1913-14.]

188. The current demand rose from Rs. 7,83,451 to Rs. 7,91,291, the increase being shared by all districts except Kamrup. Collections showed a small decrease, from 89·67 per cent. to 89·55 per cent., and amounted to Rs. 7,08,668. The assessment of 21 separate accounts was completed in Sylhet and resulted in a nett increase of Rs. 482.

Inclusive of arrears the total demand rose to Rs. 8,73,175. Of this sum, Rs. 7,90,023, or 90·47 per cent., were collected, Rs. 14 were remitted and Rs. 83,138 were left outstanding.

SECTION 6.—Educational Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 7.—Municipal Revenues.

198. The subject of Municipal income and expenditure is discussed in section 8, Chapter III of this Report.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION 1.—Vital Statistics.

General.

190. Provincial statistics in this report are based on a population of 6,051,507 in the plains districts. The birth-rate during the year rose to 33·06 per mille, but the death-rate also exceeded the average and rose to 27·66 per mille, with the result that the natural increase in the population fell from 7·12 in 1912 to 5·4 per mille in 1913. The increase in the death-rate was most marked in the Surma Valley, where floods in July led to a considerable rise in the prices of food-grains.

In tea estates the birth-rate fell from 27·22 per mille in 1912 to 26·66 per mille and the death-rate rose from 23·64 in 1912 to 25·47 in 1913. Only in the districts of Sylhet and Sibsagar did the number of births exceed the number of deaths on gardens.

The ratio of mortality from the chief diseases was fever 14·43, cholera 2·71, dysentery and diarrhœa 2·62, thus corresponding closely with the ratio for the previous decennium. Goalpara and Darrang again reported the highest mortality from fever.

The registration of vital statistics, both in urban and rural areas, was found to be faulty and proposals for improving the accuracy of the returns are being considered.

Vital statistics recorded in hill districts are given in the following table :—

Districts.	Birth-rate.		Death-rate.	
	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.
1	2	3	4	5
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	28·21	29·26	24·19	18·40
Naga Hills	32·19	21·87	18·98	25·58
Lushai Hills	37·58	35·98	32·03	28·81
Garo Hills	29·35	30·98	24·78	25·93

SECTION 2.—Immigration and labour inspection.

[*See* Resolution on Immigrant Labour in Assam for the year 1913-14.]

Legislation.

191. In view of the decision of the Government of India to withdraw the labour districts provisions of Act VI of 1901 from the four upper districts of the Assam Valley with effect from the 1st July 1914, a Bill to prevent the enticement of labour was drafted in consultation with the tea industry. The Secretary of State, however, found himself unable to accept the principles of the Bill and the orders of the Government of India as to the date from which these provisions of Act VI will now be withdrawn have not yet been received.

Immigration.

The procedure suggested by this Administration for the more efficient execution in the State of Hill Tippera of warrants issued by British courts, under Act XIII of 1859, failed to gain the support of the Government of Bengal and so no change could be effected.

192. During the year the railway route *viâ* Amingaon was prescribed as a route by which immigrant coolies to Assam might travel and the supervision of the sanitary arrangements for them from Saraghat to Amingaon was entrusted to the sanitary officers of this province.

Though slightly lower than in the previous year the number of immigrants reached the high figure of 58,869, of whom 3,776 had contracts under Act VI of 1901. They came mainly from the plains districts of the United Provinces and Bengal and from the Central Provinces, where bad harvests favoured recruiting, but there was a marked fall in the number of recruits from Madras. The health of the coolies in transit was good and only 32 deaths occurred, mainly from cholera.

Immigrate population.

193. At the close of the year the total labour force had risen from 821,735 in 1912-13 to 846,569, of whom only 1·9 per cent. of the adults had contracts under Act VI of 1901. The birth-rate fell from 27·6 to 25·5 per mille of the total strength and from 93·5 to 86·6 per mille of the adult population. The death-rate on the other hand remained stationary at 24·7 per mille for the total labour force, but for adults alone it was 28·2 and for coolies with contracts under Act VI it was 57·8 per mille. Of the total number of deaths, 43·36 per cent. were due to dysentery, diarrhœa and ankylostomiasis, and 15·32 per cent. to respiratory diseases. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner held an enquiry in the cold weather into the prevalence of dysentery and diarrhœa on tea estates and the means whereby the sanitary department could be brought into closer touch with the tea industry. His report is now being considered by the Chief Commissioner.

The number of complaints of fraudulent recruitment fell from 120 to 101, of which 46 cases were found to be true. Contracts under Act VI of 1901 were reported to have been made with 46 coolies recruited for the Sylhet district. As the provisions of Act VI, under which contracts are executed, have been withdrawn from this district, enquiries are being made, and, if necessary, the Local Government concerned will be addressed in the matter. Eight complaints of ill-treatment were brought by coolies against their employers during the year, but were found to be true in only two cases. Managers brought charges of rioting or unlawful assembly in 11 cases and of assault in 5 cases against coolies. In these cases 59 persons were sentenced to imprisonment and 1 to a fine.

Act XIII of 1859 continued to be used largely both for new coolies and for those whose contracts under Act VI had expired. The Act is reported to have worked well, but a tendency was observed in Cachar to stretch it beyond its proper scope and, on a nominal advance of money, to bind down new coolies to serve for three years. Steps have already been taken to discourage this practice. On the whole planters realise that their own interests, as well as those of humanity, are best served by treating their coolies well and preserving friendly relations with their neighbouring villagers, and departures from this sound policy occur but seldom.

The area of Government land settled with time-expired coolies rose from 196,234 to 197,137 acres, and in Lakhimpur 6,557 acres were settled with planters on special terms to enable them to provide their coolies with plots for cultivation. In order to obtain a more accurate idea of the large areas of land held by time-expired coolies, steps have also been taken to collect approximate figures of the area of land held by them as sub-tenants.

SECTION 3.—Charitable Dispensaries.

[*See* Dispensary Returns of the Province of Assam, 1913.]

Dispensaries.

194. The number of hospitals and dispensaries in the province rose from 210 in 1912 to 225 in 1913. Of these, 123 were supported by local bodies and the rest by private persons or by the State.

The number of patients treated rose to 1,595,380.

The income at the disposal of State-public, local fund and private-aided dispensaries was Rs. 5,20,303, of which Rs. 1,88,682 were contributed by Government. Insanitary conditions prevail in many dispensaries supported by local bodies, and, for the present, attention should be directed rather to the improvement of existing dispensaries than to any increase in their number.

Owing to the high cost of living and lack of private practice, service in Assam is unpopular and it was not found possible to fill the cadre of Sub-Assistant Surgeons. A revised scale of pay was introduced during the year in the hope of attracting more applicants. The leave reserve was also found to be inadequate and proposals have been made to raise it from 20 to 25 per cent. of the sanctioned strength. A scheme for 23 travelling dispensaries within the province was sanctioned, but, owing to the difficulty in recruiting officers, only four of these could be started before the close of the year.

Local bodies found even greater difficulty in filling their appointments and a combined medical service sanctioned by the five Local Boards of Sylhet was 31 per cent. short of its strength at the close of the year.

195. In the Sylhet Leper Asylum 42 patients were under treatment during the year. Of these 6 died and 7 were discharged. Treatment by Nastin has not proved a success and the substitution for it of Leprolin and injections of refined chalmugra oil is being considered. Leper Asylum.

Temporary accommodation for 30 more patients was provided and the reconstruction of the Asylum at a cost of Rs. 44,920 was sanctioned.

SECTION 4.—Lunatic Asylums.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Lunatic Asylum in Assam for the year 1913.]

196. During the year 74 patients were admitted, 14 were discharged, 2 were transferred to friends, 3 criminal and 1 non-criminal lunatics escaped and 23 died, leaving in the asylum at the close of the year 260 inmates, of whom 84 were criminal lunatics. Tea-garden coolies and cultivators formed the bulk of those admitted. Population.

The quality of the information supplied by the police was again bad, and in 65 and 57 cases, respectively, the predisposing and existing causes could not be ascertained. The majority of those admitted were suffering from mania (42) and melancholia (20), but there were 6 cases of insanity from the effects of *ganja* and in 11 cases the predisposing cause was reported to be epilepsy.

197. The number of admissions to hospital fell from 202 to 189, and the ratio of deaths per cent. of the daily average strength from 20·23 to 9·47, but the daily average number of sick rose from 24·76 to 39·06. The provision of ample air space and of three temporary segregation sheds checked the mortality from tubercular diseases. Health.

198. The cost of maintaining the asylum rose from Rs. 24,369-15-5, with an average cost per head of Rs. 104-14-10, in 1912 to a total of Rs. 37,562-14-11 with a cost per head of Rs. 154-11-9. The increase was due mainly to heavy charges for buildings, additions to the staff and a revised scale of pay. Cost of maintenance.

SECTION 5.—Sanitation.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Assam for 1913.]

199. Three new Municipalities at Karimganj, Sunamganj and Habiganj, and a new Union at Maulvi Bazar were constituted during the year in the Sylhet district. The total income of municipal institutions amounted to Rs. 6,66,390, of which Rs. 3,04,769 were spent on sanitation. Municipal bodies.

200. The construction of the water-works at Jorhat was nearly complete at the end of the year, and in Gauhati the supply of water for drinking purposes was increased and a beginning was made in checking waste by providing meters on pipes connected with private houses. In Nowgong and Sibsagar also minor schemes for improving the water-supply progressed during the year and a promising scheme for the construction of water-works was submitted from Dhubri. The financial proposals made by the Municipalities of Silchar, Sylhet and Tezpur in connection with their piped water-supply projects required careful revision. In the case of Silchar and Sylhet the projects have been sanctioned since the close of the year. The financial position of the Tezpur scheme is still under examination. Drainage schemes for Gauhati and Dibrugarh and a water-supply project for the latter town are also under preparation. Urban areas.

Conservancy arrangements in most towns of the province were reported to be bad and the Sanitary Commissioner lays stress on the necessity for largely increased expenditure in this direction.

201. The Sanitary Board gave Rs. 11,541 to 5 Local Boards of the Surma Valley and Rs. 28,459 to 9 Local Boards of the Assam Valley for the improvement of rural water-supply. As a result of a conference held in June 1913, the Local Administration also gave Rs. 10,000 to each of the 19 Boards of the province for a similar purpose and asked them to submit programmes for the systematic improvement during the next five years of their rural water-supply. The Gauhati and Barpeta Boards reached the fifth financial year of the programmes previously initiated by them in this connection and work was started on that undertaken by the Mangaldai Board. Rural areas.

Small grants were given again for sanitary purposes in selected villages and were spent mainly on constructing and improving village paths and to some extent on the improvement of drainage and water-supply.

202. The sale of quinine "treatments" showed a satisfactory increase of 2,172 parcels over the figures for 1912. In order to encourage still more the use of these treatments special itinerant vendors were appointed in the districts of Cachar, Sibsagar and Kamrup. Medical.

The provincial *kala-azar* survey was continued and resulted in showing the existence of the disease in endemic form in the district of Nowgong, the Mangaldai and Gauhati subdivisions and the Dudnai thana of Goalpara. In a quiescent state it was found also in a few scattered villages in the subdivisions of Tezpur, Golaghat, Dhubri and Barpeta and in North Kamrup. Very satisfactory results have followed on the removal of families to new sites. Out of 40 infected families thus removed 3 years ago a recurrence of the disease in a person not obviously infected on the old site has occurred only in one case. Arrangements were made to provide travelling dispensaries for areas in which this disease is endemic and proposals for controlling migration from infected villages are being considered.

SECTION 6.—Vaccination.

[*See* Vaccination Return of the Province of Assam for the year 1913.]

203. The staff of paid and licensed vaccinators was raised during the year to 353 persons and the number of operations performed by them and by other agencies rose from 333,363 in 1912-13 to 336,649 in 1913-14. Successful operations increased much in the Garo Hills, Nowgong, Kamrup, Goalpara and Cachar, but there was a large decline in the Sylhet district, where also the percentage of cases inspected by the Civil Surgeon was small. Inspection by Civil Surgeons in some other districts was also inadequate.

The system of licensing private vaccinators in districts where paid vaccinators work was reported to work badly.

Vaccinators reported success in 98·47 per cent. of vaccinations and in 78·11 per cent. of revaccinations, but these figures are higher than those returned by the inspecting staff. Of the total number of vaccinations and revaccinations performed, 5·50 per cent. and 2·71 per cent., respectively, were verified by Civil Surgeons and 51·44 per cent. and 42·87 per cent., respectively, by the subordinate inspecting staff.

In towns in which compulsory vaccination is enforced, 78·2 per cent. of the available infants were vaccinated, but in several towns the percentage of infants vaccinated remained deplorably low and the attention of Civil Surgeons had to be called again to this matter.

The cost of the department, including that of the lymph prepared at the Shillong vaccine depôt, was Rs. 64,426-4-4, which gives an average cost of Re. 0-3-4 for each successful vaccination.

CHAPTER VII—INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—General system of Public Instruction.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 121-123.]

SECTION 2.—Education.

[*See* General Report on Public Instruction in Assam for the year 1913-14, and Statistics of British India, Part VII.]

General.

204. The most noticeable feature of the year is the large increase in the number of schools and scholars. The total number of institutions, public and private, rose from 4,269 to 4,578 and that of pupils from 191,428 to 215,141. The percentage of male pupils to the male population of a school-going age was 35·08 against 32·04 in the preceding year and of female pupils 4·61 against 3·79.

The total expenditure increased from Rs. 19,03,954 in 1912-13 to Rs. 23,28,287 in the year under report. The increase was contributed both by the public funds and private sources. Out of the Imperial assignments for educational reforms in Assam Rs. 6,00,000 were allotted for expenditure during the year. This sum was almost fully spent.

Collegiate education.

205. On 31st March 1914 there were 442 students on the rolls of the Assam colleges as compared with 360 on the same day of 1913, an increase of 82. The affiliation of the colleges was extended, staffs strengthened, accommodation increased, hostels improved and developed, libraries and laboratories more fully equipped, and liberal schemes for further development were in preparation. The sanction of the Secretary of State to the raising of the status of the Murarichand College to that of a first-grade college was received during the year and action proceeded for the acquisition of a site and the preparation of a building project.

Secondary education.

206. The number of high schools rose from 29 to 31, the new schools being the George Institution and North Lakhimpur High School. The enrolment rose from 10,337 to 11,597. Six aided high schools situated in subdivisional headquarters were provincialised during the year and negotiations for the provincialisation of a seventh were nearing completion at the close of the year. The demand for high schools is increasing. Improvements were made in the staffing of Government high schools and larger grants were offered to aided high schools with a view to bringing about similar improvements. A scheme was sanctioned providing for the development of Government high schools up to a two-section limit, *i.e.*, a maximum enrolment of 640 in each.

Four hundred and eighty-three candidates presented themselves at the Matriculation Examination, of whom 300 passed. The percentage of success is not so satisfactory as in the preceding year, about 62 per cent. having passed against 74 per cent. in 1912-13.

The increase in the demand for English education continued. Several new middle English schools sought and obtained recognition or grant-in-aid during the year, and preliminaries were entered upon for the conversion of one large middle English school to a high school. The Government middle English school at North Lakhimpur has been raised to the standard of a high school, and high school classes will be gradually opened. There were 113 middle English schools for boys at the close of the year with an attendance of 13,693, the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 102 and 12,693.

Vernacular education was made free in all its stages. Middle vernacular schools made a remarkable recovery from the decline into which they had threatened to fall. The number of schools rose from 36 to 47 and of pupils from 2,796 and 5,244, or by 88 per cent. The increase in the number of pupils was not confined to the lower classes, the numbers in the middle stage of instruction having risen from 636 to 864, or by about 36 per cent. This increase, coming as it does after a period when middle vernacular education was supposed to be in a dying condition, is very satisfactory. The advance is full of hope for the future of vernacular education, as boys who have passed through a complete vernacular course, followed by a period of training, are in urgent request as teachers.

Primary education.

207. Extensive schemes for the improvement and expansion of primary education were carried into effect: the pay of primary school teachers was raised all round; funds were given to local bodies for the expansion of primary education under their

Chap. VII. — INSTRUCTION. —

charge and for the improvement of school buildings and equipment. Primary schools for boys rose from 3,534 to 3,760 and their pupils from 148,278 to 161,730. Expenditure increased from Rs. 5,02,079 to Rs. 5,51,726.

Institutions for training of teachers.

208. Two training classes for female teachers were opened during the year, under Mission supervision, one in each valley. Both institutions received Government aid.

In regard to the training of male teachers the system remained unchanged. There were 3 normal and 6 elementary training schools. There were 421 pupils in these schools against 361 in the preceding year. The returns for trained teachers show an increase from 2,109 to 2,388.

Law class.

209. The law class at Gauhati had 14 students on roll against 13 in the previous year. The expenditure was Rs. 478 against Rs. 563 in 1913-14.

Medical School.

210. The number of students on 31st March 1914 in the Berry-White Medical School was 112 (exclusive of the students in the compounders' class) against 113 in the previous year. The number of hillmen increased from 13 to 17 and that of Muhammadans decreased from 20 to 17. Of the Hindu and Muhammadan students, 58 belonged to the Brahmaputra Valley. The total expenditure increased from Rs. 29,214 to Rs. 32,732. Of 28 students in the 4th-year class, 24 passed the final examination and obtained their diplomas.

Technical and Industrial schools.

211. Industrial and technical education in the province is confined to two State schools and a few workshops which take in apprentice artisans.

Proposals for the establishment of a middle English school at Tipkai under the auspices of the Dhubri Local Board were received and grants sanctioned. Building operations were in progress during the year.

Tols.

212. At the close of the year there were 63 *tols* with 1,175 pupils, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 61 and 1,249, respectively. The general condition of Sanskrit *tols* is unsatisfactory, but a scheme of improvement is under consideration.

Madrasas.

213. There were 34 madrasas with 2,659 pupils at the close of the year. The Government madrasa at Sylhet, which started as a junior madrasa with 54 pupils, had an enrolment of 110 on 31st March 1914. It follows the Bengal curriculum. A scheme for its development to the senior standard was sanctioned.

Female education.

214. The percentage of girls attending public schools of all classes advanced from 3·7 to 4·4. The total number of recognised schools for girls increased from 265 to 318 and that of the girls at school, inclusive of those in boys' schools, was 22,747 against 19,085 in the previous year. This advance is full of promise.

The increase was most marked in schools primarily intended for girls, but there was considerable advance also in the number of girls reading in boys' schools. Grants from the Imperial assignments were communicated to local bodies for the improvement and expansion of female education under their charge. Fifty primary schools of an improved type were established and the status of 4 girls' schools was raised to the middle standard. The Khasi and Jaintia Hills, which had 22·3 per cent. of girls of school-going age at school, is the most advanced and the Naga Hills the most backward district in the province.

European education.

215. The number of schools for European and Anglo-Indian children remained the same as in the preceding year, *viz.*, two, one a Government school and the other a convent school aided with a Government grant, both located in Shillong and primarily intended for girls but taking in little boys also up to the age of 10 years. The total enrolment has advanced from 59 to 104. The boarding accommodation afforded in the Government school has been fully taken up, the teaching staff strengthened and the school building has undergone a great many alterations and improvements. The convent school has been officially recognised as a secondary school. Its buildings have been extended and improved and the curriculum considerably extended. Both the schools did well in the music examinations of the Trinity College. Negotiations for the establishment of two new schools for boys, one at Haflong and the other in Shillong, were nearing completion.

Muhammadan education.

216. The subjoined statement gives the comparative statistics of Muhammadan pupils in the various classes of recognised schools for the past 2 years:—

	1912-13.	1913-14.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
High schools	1,922	2,046	+ 6·4
Middle English schools	2,729	2,897	+ 6·2
Middle vernacular schools	471	895	+90·0
Primary schools	35,619	38,621	+ 8·4

The number of Muhammadan students at college in Assam rose from 39 to 67. The percentage of increase in the middle vernacular schools is significant.

217. There was no change in the arrangements for the education of hill tribes in the province. There has been much advance both in the number of schools and pupils. The Khasi and Jaintia Hills, with 32·9 per cent. of the children of school-going age at school, occupies the first place in the province in point of school attendance. The Namasudra community in the plains districts of the Surma Valley has awakened to the advantages of education. Grants were given by the Education Department to several schools attended entirely or largely by Namasudras. Backward classes.

218. The education of the children of tea-garden labourers did not make satisfactory progress. There were 118 schools in the province, of which 86 belonged to the "C" class. Children of tea-garden coolies.

219. There was no striking instance of bad discipline either in colleges or schools. Discipline.

SECTION 3.—Literature and the Press.

[*See* Statistics of British India, Part VII, Educational.]

220. The total number of publications registered during the year under Act XXV of 1867, as amended by Act X of 1890, was 49, against 44 in the preceding year. Of these 12 were educational and 37 non-educational works; forty-five were first editions and 4 were republications. Of these books 24 were in Bengali, 4 were in Assamese, 3 were in English, 3 were in Nagri, 3 were in Sanskrit, 3 were in Khasi, 2 were in English-Assamese, 3 were in Sanskrit-Bengali, one was in Lushai, one was in English-Bengali, one was in Sanskrit-Assamese, and one was in Musalmani Bengali. The publications registered during the year are classified below according to the subjects dealt with :—

Astrology	1
Dictionary	1
General School Books and Keys	4
Mathematics	1
Miscellaneous	12
Fiction	1
Periodicals	11
Poetry	4
Science	1
Religion	13
Total	49

No book was received under any of the heads Biography, Drama, Geography, History, Law, Medicine, Mythology and Philosophy.

The *Assam Bilasini*, a weekly newspaper printed in Assamese, was started at Jorhat in September 1913. Besides this, one English, one Anglo-Bengali, one Assamese and one Bengali newspaper were published weekly and fourteen periodicals appeared monthly during the year. The tone of the Press continued to be unobjectionable.

SECTION 4.—Scientific and Literary Societies.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—Arts and Sciences.

Nil.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

221. During the year under report the Public Works Department maintained the monuments that have been declared as protected under Act VII of 1904. The most interesting of these are the famous rock inscriptions at the foot of the Kamakhya Hill in Kamrup, the dargah of Shah Jalal, who invaded Sylhet in 1257 A.D., the copper temple of the Deori Chutiyas near Sadiya, where human sacrifices used to be offered yearly, and the Ahom ruins in Sibsagar. Special repairs were made at Hayagrib Madhab's temple at Hajo in Kamrup and to the Bishnudole, Shibdole, Durgadole and Debidole temples at Gaurisagar and Sibsagar. The Shibdole temple at Negriting, in the Sibsagar district, was declared a protected monument and here also special repairs were executed.

Action, moreover, was taken with regard to two inscribed stones at Maibong and some ruins at Khaspur. These are of special interest in that they mark the gradual decline of the Kachari kingdom. The capital of this kingdom was originally at Dimapur in the Naga Hills, and the ruins of this city are protected under the Act. The Kachari kings were driven from here by the Ahoms and Angami Nagas early in the 16th century and retired to Maibong in the North Cachar Hills. At this place a rock temple had been put previously on the list of protected monuments, and during 1913-14, the question of protecting two inscribed stones, recording the erection of a stone gateway by King Megha Narayan Deba of the Hachangsa dynasty in Saka 1498 (A.D. 1576), was taken up, final orders being passed after the close of the year. Sometime between 1700 and 1750 A.D. the Kachari capital was transferred to Khaspur on the Madhura river in Cachar. Here, on land belonging to the Pathemara Tea Estate, were found ruins of temples built between 1780 and 1824 in the time of Rajas Krishna Chandra and Govinda Narayan, of whom the latter fled in 1825 to Haritikar in Sylhet and took refuge with the East India Company against the aggressions of the Manipuris and Burmese. These ruins, consisting mainly of a temple to Ranachandi, the goddess of war, a *Singh Darwaza*, a *Snan Mandir* and a *Baradwari*, were declared as protected monuments during the year and negotiations were entered into with the Manager of the Pathemara Tea Estate with respect to the manner of their preservation.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, page 128.]

SECTION 2.—Ecclesitical.

222. The ecclesiastical establishment of the province, maintained wholly or in part by this Administration, consists of the chaplaincies of Shillong, Silchar, Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The chaplaincy of Darrang has been vacant since June 1912; the Chaplain of Silchar went on leave on the 18th March 1914 and the Chaplain of Sibsagar left in the middle of March 1914. These posts have not yet been filled. The Chaplain of Shillong visited quarterly the out-stations of Gauhati and Dhubri and inspected the cemeteries at Cherrapunji and Goalpara. He also visited Tezpur quarterly in the absence of a chaplain at Darrang and paid his annual visit to Kohima, Manipur, Tura and Aijal.

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

223. The value of stationery supplied to the province was Rs. 54,575, including Rs. 12,000 for articles supplied to the Secretariat Press. Expenditure amounted to Rs. 47,680. All departments, except those of the Public Works and Education, again contributed to the savings and a revision of the departmental allotments has therefore been suggested by the Controller.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

224. Cash receipts of the Secretariat Press rose by Rs. 564 to Rs. 3,289 and expenditure decreased from Rs. 1,25,083 to Rs. 1,13,682. The actual amount paid to workmen exceeded the value of their outturn by Rs. 2,578. This loss occurred almost entirely under the Press and Machine branch and was due to the frequent necessity for working overtime owing to work being received late in the evening for immediate printing.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* Report of the Civil Verternary Department, Assam, for 1913-1914.]

225. Rinderpest was much less prevalent during the year and the number of deaths from contagious diseases consequently fell from 45,542 in 1912-13 to 29,471 in 1913-14. **Diseases.**

In 236 outbreaks of disease 26,325 animals were inoculated, with the satisfactory result that only 382 of them died, whereas 4,954 animals had died in these outbreaks before inoculation.

Much of the debility noticeable among cattle in plains districts was found to be due to liver fluke disease, which is incurable.

226. During the year one assistant resigned his post, but 9 more were appointed, thus raising their number to 40. The cadre still remained short by 13 assistants of its sanctioned strength, and an attempt to secure suitable candidates, by increasing the number and value of stipends tenable at the Bengal Veterinary College, was not successful. It is hoped, however, to attract qualified men for service in this department by a substantial increase in the pay of assistants. **Strength.**

227. The popularity of veterinary treatment of animals in the mufassil showed further progress, an increase of 34·61 per cent. in the staff of itinerant assistants, which was raised from 26 to 35, being accompanied by an increase of 42·51 per cent. in the number of animals treated. **Treatment of animals.**

228. Thirteen stud-bulls were maintained in the province and an improvement on the local breed of sheep was effected. No further steps were taken to improve the breed of cattle, as the report of the special officer deputed by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam has not yet been published. **Breeding operations.**

229. Cattle poisoners were reported to be working in several parts of the province, but no prosecutions have yet been made. **General.**

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR

1914-15.

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PART I.

SUMMARY

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR

1914-1915.

PART I—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM.

Monsoon Tour.

1. On July 12th, the Officiating Chief Commissioner, Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. T. Gurdon, C.S.I., left Shillong for his Monsoon Tour.

At Jorhat.

Jorhat was reached on the 13th at ten in the morning, the arrival being public. On the 13th the Officiating Chief Commissioner opened the Bistooram Town Hall, constructed by the generosity of Rai Bahadur Bistooram Barua.

Addresses.

On the same day addresses were presented by the Members of the Jorhat "Sarvajanik Sabha," Members of the Anjumania Tayidi Islam, Members of the Ahom Community, and Members of the Jorhat Ahom Association, to which Colonel Gurdon made suitable replies.

Visits Haflong and Silchar.

From Jorhat Colonel Gurdon went by railway to the Surma Valley, stopping for a night at Haflong, and arriving at Silchar on the 19th. At Silchar the Officiating Chief Commissioner and party proceeded on board the "Brahmakund" preparatory to touring through the Surma Valley.

At Karimganj.

After halting in Silchar, Colonel Gurdon arrived at Karimganj on the 31st July, his arrival being public. The next day an interesting meeting of the planters of the Karimganj subdivision took place to discuss the development of light railway projects in that portion of the country, the delegates afterwards being entertained at lunch on board the "Sonamukhi."

En route.

From Karimganj Colonel Gurdon proceeded on the "Brahmakund" as far as Monamukh, and thence by motor boat to Maulvi Bazar, arriving on the evening of the 23rd.

At Maulvi Bazar.

The next day, the 24th, a luncheon party was given by Mr. Cantlie, the Subdivisional Officer. This ws attended by a number of planters who had come in. The same evening the Officiating Chief Commissioner and party left Maulvi Bazar *en route* for Habiganj. Madna was reached on the 25th and Habiganj the next afternoon. In the evening the town was illuminated and a firework display was given in honour of Colonel Gurdon's visit. The next day after inspecting various institutions, schools, etc., the whole party left Habiganj at noon for Madna.

At Sunamganj.

Sunamganj was reached on the 28th, where a halt of one day was made, and Sylhet was reached on the 30th evening. Here a halt was made for five days, during which time Colonel Gurdon took the opportunity of visiting many institutions, schools, etc., and also the local places of interest, such as the Shah Jalal Mosque, the Idghar, etc.

Returns to Shillong.

On the morning of the 5th August the Officiating Chief Commissioner and party left for Badarpur, *en route* for Shillong. Badarpur was reached on the evening of the 5th, and Shillong on the afternoon of the 7th.

Therria Tour.

On the 20th October the Chief Commissioner left Shillong on a tour of inspection in the country which lies at the foot of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and to the North of the Sylhet district. Therria Ghat, at the foot of the road down from Cherrapoonjee, is well known for its limestone quarries, several of which the Chief Commissioner visited during his stay.

En route.

Therria was formerly the terminus of the Companyganj-Therria light railway, which was unfortunately destroyed in the earthquake of 1897 and by subsequent floods. Floods are the chief difficulties which beset the Company, which has also ruined the Dewara-Ishamati light railway, similarly constructed for the purpose of carrying limestone.

Visits Dowkai.

After leaving Therria Ghat the Chief Commissioner proceeded along the foot of the hills to Dowkai about 22 miles distant. The country passed through in this portion of the tour was a complete revelation, covered as it is with orange groves, pine-apples, plantain trees, etc. It has hitherto been untouched by capital, but success should await any well-run venture in this direction.

Returns to Shillong.

From Dowkai the Chief Commissioner and party returned to Shillong, arriving on November 9th.

North-East Frontier Tour.

The Chief Commissioner and party left Shillong on Thursday, November 19th, for a tour in the North-East Frontier. Saikhowaghat was reached in the evening of the next day, the 20th, where Mr. W. C. M. Dundas, C.I.E., Political Officer, met the Chief Commissioner. Next morning the whole party crossed the Lohit river by motor boat to Sadiya, the headquarters of the North-East Frontier. On arrival the Chief Commissioner inspected a squadron Camp of the Assam Valley Light Horse which was then in progress, and was afterwards escorted by the troopers to the Political Officer's residence where a guard of honour was furnished by the Lakhimpur Military Police Battalion.

At Sadiya. Assam Valley Light Horse squadron camp.

After a short interval, the Chief Commissioner watched a field-day in which the Light Horse and Military Police took part.

En route. The Lohit Valley.

The next day the Chief Commissioner and party accompanied by Mr. Dundas, left Sadiya by road, arriving at Diphuguard, nine miles off, where a halt was made for the night. This is a very little-used halting place, as Sanpura is only another 6 miles further on, and is the usual stage. Payanmukh was the next day's halt; 12 miles from Diphuguard and situated at the mouth of a small river which flows into the Lohit at this point. From Payanmukh the route lay to the east along the north bank of the Lohit until Digaru was reached. As this march was so short it was decided to go straight on to Dening which lies in a north-easterly direction from Digaru. Dening was reached in the afternoon, a distance of about 15 miles, from the last camp. This was the furthest point reached on the Mishmi road and here were found traces of the Mishmi Road Work Party in the shape of a ruined godown, etc. The next day, the 25th, a halt was made, while on the 26th the Chief Commissioner went back along the road to Digaru where a halt was made for the night.

At Choukham.

From Digaru the next day's line of march lay to the south across the Lohit river, and thence six miles inland to Choukham, the head village of the Khampti country. From the banks of the Lohit to Choukham the Chief Commissioner was accompanied by Chowna, the Khampti Raja, and on arrival at Choukham a great demonstration was made to the accompaniment of gongs and cymbals. The next morning, an interesting ceremony took place when Chowna was presented by the Chief Commissioner with his *sanad* and badge of Raja. The ceremony was attended by a large numbers of Khamptis who were regaled both before and after with music supplied by the Military Police Band.

En route by the Taeng river.

On the morning of the 29th November Sir Archdale Earle and party left Choukham in dug-outs down the Taeng river to Latao. From Latao the next day's march was 12 miles across country to Ningru on the Noa Dehing river. The road or path lay through thick jungle for the most part and travelling in certain places was difficult, owing to the path running practically through a marsh.

En route up the Noa Dehing.

From Ningru the route lay up the Noa Dehing, the journey being done in boats while a certain amount of camp equipment was carried on elephants.

The Noa Dehing river.

The Noa Dehing runs between heavily wooded banks while the country through which it flows, known as the Singpho country, is practically devoid of villages and consequently human beings were seldom encountered.

The journey up-stream was continued for four days and then the Chief Commissioner and party returned down-stream arriving at Noa Dehingmukh on the 7th. Saikhowaghat was reached in the early morning of the 8th and Dibrugarh Ghat on the same evening where the Chief Commissioner embarked on the "Brahmakund". The next morning the "Brahmakund" left for Gauhati, but, owing to the steamer grounding on a sand bank for two days just below Tezpur, Gauhati was not reached till the afternoon of the 13th December.

At Gauhati, Tihu Camp, returns to Shillong.

The Chief Commissioner halted in Gauhati till December 23rd and left on the 24th for Tihu in Kamrup district, and thence to Katchkuri, a village about five miles from the railway. Here the Christmas holidays were spent and Sir Archdale Earle left on the 29th, arriving in Shillong on December 30th.

Lushai Hills Tour.

On the 8th January 1915 the Chief Commissioner left Shillong for a tour in the Lushai Hills *vid* the Hailakandi, subdivision of the district of Cachar. Salchapra, the nearest railway station to Hailakandi, was reached on the afternoon of the 9th where a halt was made for the night. The next morning the Chief Commissioner drove to Hailakandi being escorted for the last part of the journey by a troop of the Surma Valley Light Horse. On arrival a number of introductions were made, after which the European community were entertained at a luncheon given by Mr. F. A. S. Thomas, the Subdivisional Officer. While replying to the toast of Lady Earle and himself, Sir Archdale Earle took the opportunity of communicating to the Volunteers present the orders and requirements of the Government of India with regard to the Indian Army Reserve of Officers.

At Hailakandi.

The next day, the 11th January, addresses were presented by the Local Board, the Hailakandi public and the Anjuman Islamia to which the Chief Commissioner made suitable replies.

Inspections.

The morning of the 12th January was spent in visiting the schools, offices, dispensary and police station, while in the afternoon an entertainment was held at the Hailakandi High School, at the conclusion of which Lady Earle distributed the prizes earned by the pupils for their work during the past year.

En route up the Lushai Hills.

On the 13th January the Chief Commissioner and party left Hailakandi for Loharbund, a Forest bungalow at the foot of the Lushai Hills. On the way Sir Archdale and Lady Earle availed themselves of the invitation of "A" Troop of the Assam Valley Light Horse to witness a Military Tournament which was being held at Kalacherra. A very enjoyable day was spent, the whole party being entertained at lunch and tea, and Loharbund was reached in the evening. Some four miles from Loharbund, the Chief Commissioner was met by Mr. Hezlett, Superintendent of the Lushai Hills, who was to accompany him up to Aijal.

Stages in the Hills.

The next day the ascent into the hills was begun along the six-foot bridle path which constitutes the main road to Aijal. Kanglai, the first bungalow on the road, is 800 feet above sea level, and from there onwards a more or less steady ascent was made day by day through the following stages:—Chimmluang, Kolosib, Bolpui, Taito, Neiboi, Aijal. The highest point on the road, about 5,000 feet, was reached just before the bungalow at Neiboi, while from Neiboi the road descends gradually to Aijal which has an elevation of about 4,000 feet.

At Aijal.

Aijal was reached on the 20th January, the arrival being public. About a mile outside the station, the Chief Commissioner was met by the leading officials, Missionaries, and a number of Lushai chiefs, while a guard of honour was supplied by the Lushai Hills Military Police. After the reception the Chief Commissioner and party proceeded to walk into Aijal accompanied by a large crowd. The neatness of the station is at once apparent to the stranger and in every way justifies its reputation of being the best laid-out station in Assam. This is due almost entirely to the energies of Colonels Shakespear and Cole, late Superintendents, and Colonel Loch, late Commandant of the Military Police.

Inspections.

On the 21st January the Chief Commissioner inspected the Military Police Battalion on parade under the command of Captain Hensley.

At the conclusion of the parade the barracks and various institutions, such as the Indian Officers' Club, Gymnasium, canteen, etc., were inspected. These are a revelation, and it is doubtful whether any better quarters are supplied anywhere in India, even for British troops.

Kamliana, Chief of Lungleng.

In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Hezlett gave a garden party which was largely attended. A number of models of Lushai houses and other articles were on view and during afternoon Kamliana, Chief of Lungleng, came forward and offered a substantial sum of money as a contribution from himself and his villagers towards the Imperial Indian Relief Fund.

Boi Conference. The 22nd January was given up to interviews and a conference on the *Boi* system which was held in the morning. This was attended by a large number of Missionaries, the chief among them being the Rev. Mr. Jones of the Welsh Calvinistic Mission and the Rev. Mr. Savidge of the English Baptist Mission.

Inspections. On the 23rd, the Chief Commissioner visited the offices, schools and the waterworks. A second conference on the *Boi* question was also held, to which a certain number of Lushai chiefs were invited. In the afternoon Military and Lushai sports were held on the parade ground when the officers of the Police battalion were "At Home."

In the evening the whole station was entertained to dinner by Mr. and Mrs. Hezlett to meet Sir Archdale and Lady Earle.

Return journey. The next day, the 24th, the Chief Commissioner left Aijal, after an interesting visit, this being the first occasion since 1903, on which the head of the province had visited the Lushai Hills.

The journey down to the plains by the same route as that taken up to Aijal was uneventful and Jalinga, some ten miles from Silchar, was reached on the 30th January.

At Jalinga. The next day the Chief Commissioner and Lady Earle were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. St. J. Hickman at Bara Jalinga. The morning was spent in a successful jungle fowl shoot, at the conclusion of which, the whole party were entertained at lunch.

At Silchar. On the morning of the 1st February the Chief Commissioner motored into Silchar, where a meet of the Surma Valley Light Horse was just beginning. Sir Archdale Earle spent the morning of the 2nd, receiving visitors and in the afternoon accompanied by Lady Earle watched the Volunteer sports and polo in progress on the polo ground.

Surma Valley Light Horse Camp. A busy day was spent on the 3rd February when the Chief Commissioner motored two or three miles out of the station to watch a Field Firing Competition in the morning, returning later to attend a prize giving at the Silchar Chatuspathy, while the afternoon was taken up in watching the sports of India Club, at the conclusion of which Lady Earle gave away the prizes.

Inspections. On the morning of the 4th the Chief Commissioner and Lady Earle visited Miss Lloyd's Girls' School, when the question of enlarging the buildings was considered. In the afternoon, another visit was made to watch the Volunteers' sports and polo, and later on to watch a hockey match between the Silchar India Club and the Military Police. In the evening Sir Archdale and Lady Earle were the guests of the Surma Valley Light Horse at dinner. After the loyal toast had been drunk, Colonel Knowles proposed the health of the Chief Commissioner and Lady Earle to which Sir Archdale Earle replied. After dinner a very successful smoking concert was held in the Recreation Club at the conclusion of which the Chief Commissioner and party left for the Railway station *en route* for Kokilamukh.

Visits Auniati Satra. Kokilamukh was reached on the morning of the 6th where the Chief Commissioner was met by Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair, the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar. The whole party was then taken across the Brahmaputra on Mr. Chalmer's launch to visit the Auniati Satra. On landing the Chief Commissioner was met by the Gossain, and shortly afterwards again at the Satra about two miles inland.

En route. After the visit was over Sir Archdale and Lady Earle and party returned to the launch and were conveyed to the "Brahmakund" in mid-stream, arriving and halting for the night at Komlabari about two hours' journey up-stream.

Visits Dakhinpat Satra. The next day, the 7th, a visit was paid to the Dakhinpât Gossain at his Satra.

Visits Garamur Satra. On the 8th the Chief Commissioner and party left by road across the Majuli for Garamur on the north bank of the Subansiri river. On the way a visit was paid to the Garamur Satra where Sir Archdale and Lady Earle were received by the Gossain.

At North Lakhimpur. The subdivisional headquarters of North Lakhimpur were reached on the 9th after a drive of seventeen miles, and after lunch the Chief Commissioner made a tour of inspection of the town visiting the police station, jail, the girls' school, dâk-bungalow and the offices.

Addresses. On the morning of the 10th an address was presented by the North Lakhimpur Local Board to which the Chief Commissioner replied.

Interviews. The rest of the morning was taken up with interviews and in the afternoon a garden party was given by the Subdivisional Officer, Mr. Mackenzie, which was largely attended by tea planters, several of whom had come long distances in spite of the inclement weather.

Earlier in the afternoon a conference was held in the Circuit House of Planters and Indian members of the Local Board to discuss the question of communications in the subdivision. Communication conference.

The Chief Commissioner accompanied by Mr. S. N. Mackenzie, and Mr. G. R. Shaw, the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer, motored out along the Borduti road on the morning of the 11th to inspect a serious breach which had occurred in the road owing to the floods. Inspection of Borduti Road.

The next day the Chief Commissioner motored out to Pathalipam about 20 miles from North Lakhimpur and situated on the banks of the Subansiri river some 5 miles below the gorge. Visit Pathalipam.

On the morning of the 13th the Chief Commissioner, after inspecting the Middle English School and the Military Police outpost lines, left North Lakhimpur for Garamur, arriving there about mid-day. From Garamur the journey was resumed next day back across the Majuli to Dakhinpât, where the Chief Commissioner embarked on the "Brahmakund" which left the same evening for Gauhati. Inspections.

On the evening of the 15th Tezpur was reached and a halt was made for the night, Gauhati being reached at four o'clock on the next day. Gauhati.

In the evening of the 17th the "Brahmakund" went down-stream to Amingaon where she anchored for the night, and next morning the Chief Commissioner and party left Amingaon by train for Kokrajhar. Kokrajhar was reached in the afternoon and that evening the Chief Commissioner and Lady Earle were entertained at a dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Sen on behalf of the Rani of Bijni. Kokrajhar Camp.

The next day the Chief Commissioner left for Gorubhasa arriving at mid-day at the Forest bungalow. Gorubhasa.

From Gorubhasa the next stage was to Ranikatta which was reached late in the afternoon of the 20th. Meanwhile the weather had been steadily getting worse, and owing to this any further move forward had to be abandoned and a halt was made at Ranikatta for the 21st. Ranikatta.

On the 22nd the return journey was started and Gorubhasa was reached the same day. Here another halt of a day was made, and on the 24th the Chief Commissioner and party returned to Kokrajhar, and left early in the morning of the 25th by rail for Amingaon, Gauhati being reached the same afternoon by the "Brahmakund." Return journey.

On the morning of the 26th the Chief Commissioner visited the cholera sheds and coolie depôt, and in the afternoon accompanied by Lady Earle visited the site of the Mission Girls' School. Inspections, Gauhati.

On the 1st March the Chief Commissioner motored out to Polasbari to meet the committees of certain Co-operative Credit Societies and on the return journey he also inspected the Polasbari Charitable Dispensary.

On the morning of the 4th March the Chief Commissioner left Amingaon by train for Sara Ghat to be present at the opening ceremony of the Sara Bridge. This was performed in the early morning of the 5th by His Excellency the Viceroy, and for the rest of the day Sir Archdale and Lady Earle were the guests of Sir R. R. Gales, the Chief Engineer. Visits Sara Bridge opening Ceremony.

The Chief Commissioner left Sara Ghat in the evening of the 5th and arrived in Shillong on the 6th March 1915. Returns Shillong.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

2. The Hon'ble Sir Archdale Earle, K.C.I.E., was on leave from the 13th May until the 9th September 1914. The Hon'ble Lieut.-Colonel P. R. T. Gurdon, C.S.I., Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, officiated during his absence.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON THE ADMINISTRATION.

3. The outbreak of war found 24 officers on leave, 17 of whom were recalled to duty. To compensate for loss of officiating promotion in the graded services, the Government of India sanctioned minimum rates of pay for officers of the Assam Commission and of Police. At first owing to the disturbance of the money market the Planting Community was in some difficulty, but matters quickly righted themselves. Prices rose and in some cases action had to be taken by local officers to prevent unfair inflation, but on the whole little inconvenience was experienced. Meetings were held in various parts of the province and all sections of the community gave evidence of their loyalty. The

response to the Viceroy's appeal for funds for the Imperial Relief Fund was satisfactory, a sum of Rs. 1,13,771-4-5 having been collected by the end of the year. A large number of Europeans, both non-official and official, joined the Indian Army Reserve of Officers and large drafts of men were sent from the military police battalions to the regular army.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Manipur.

4. On the outbreak of war wild rumours gained some credence in the State of Manipur, but they were promptly dissipated and all fears allayed. The tribes in the unadministered area took advantage of the forbearance imposed on Government by the exceptional conditions induced by the war to commit several petty outrages in Manipur State territory. The agitation against the *pothang* taxes entirely disappeared.

A short rainfall seriously affected the rice crop and sent up prices to such a height that export was prohibited. Public health was, however, good. The revenue of the State, including the *pothang* taxes but excluding the water-rate, rose from Rs. 5,91,327 to Rs. 6,37,742 ; gross expenditure fell from Rs. 6,33,455 to Rs. 6,19,900.

Frontier tribes.

5. During the year the southern boundaries of the Eastern, Central and Western Sections of the North-East Frontier as well as those of the new Lakhimpur Frontier Tract were formally notified and rules for the administration of these tracts were issued. The existence of a state of war in Europe rendered it inadvisable to advance far beyond the administered boundary, and the year was uneventful in comparison with the one preceding it.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the people.

6. In the Surma Valley the condition of the cultivators was good until the occurrence of the floods of June and July which did considerable damage. In the Assam Valley the condition of the cultivating class was on the whole fair. The price of rice ruled high in the Assam Valley.

CHAPTER II.

INISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Realisation of the revenue.

7. There was an increase of 262 square miles in the settled area and the land revenue demand rose by Rs. 58,469 to Rs. 72,43,585. The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue fell from Rs. 7,14,869 to Rs. 6,67,751 and of this 96·91 per cent. was collected. Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act Rs. 67,327 were advanced, of which Rs. 39,290 were distributed in the Assam Valley. The issue of notices of demand in the temporarily-settled areas of the Assam Valley was entirely discontinued. Selected mauzadars were vested with power to issue attachment orders themselves and to dispose of uncontested mutation and partition cases in the field.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Survey and settlement.

8. The work of the Traverse Party consisted mainly in the traverse surveys of tea-garden grants and of extension villages and in the relaying of *thak* and other boundaries. The Shillong Drawing Office printed 37,766 copies of maps for Assam.

After the close of the year the control of the Assam Survey Department was entrusted to the Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, as an experimental measure.

The survey and settlement of Guma in the Eastern Duars of Goalpara were in progress during the year, and the revised rates of assessment were sanctioned in August 1915. In Cachar the year's programme consisted of map revision and record-writing for three of the groups and record attestation in the other three. Map revision and record-writing were completed according to the programme. The work of record

attestation proved to be heavier than was anticipated and could not be carried out in full. The resettlement of the Jaintia parganas in Sylhet started on the 1st October 1914; and map revision, record correction and the classification of the whole area were practically finished before the close of the year. In that part of the permanently-settled tract in Sylhet which has been taken up experimentally for survey and settlement, the cadastral survey and preliminary record-writing were completed, while good progress was made with area calculation and preparation of crop statistics.

LAND RECORDS.

Land Records.

9. In connection with the organisation of village unions under the Local Self-Government Act, two of the Land Records circles, *viz.*, Nalbari in Kamrup and Jorhat in Sibsagar, were subdivided.

SETTLEMENT FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlement for special cultivation.

10. The area settled for special cultivation increased by 8,506 acres and the revenue assessed thereon by Rs. 10,344.

WARDS' ESTATES.

Wards' Estates.

11. One new estate came under management, raising the total number to 11. The collections of rents were not very satisfactory, but agricultural conditions were unfavourable and tenants could not be pressed. In spite of this, excellent progress was made in paying off the debts of three estates. There was a slight reduction in the cost of management, but it remained high.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

12. Floods in June and July did considerable damage in the Surma Valley, and agricultural loans and gratuitous relief had to be freely distributed. Until these floods occurred, the condition of the people was good. In the Assam Valley the year was on the whole one of average prosperity. The winter rice suffered from the early cessation of the rains throughout the Valley and the outturn of summer rice was below the normal in the Garo Hills, Nowgong and Kamrup.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Legislation.

13. The Legislative Council passed the Assam Local Self-Government Act, 1915.

The operation of certain enactments was barred and of others was extended to the newly-formed Frontier Tracts under the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874 (XIV of 1874), and the Assam Frontier Tract Regulation, 1880 (II of 1880).

The provisions of parts of the Bengal Act III of 1884 were extended to certain municipalities, while in others, Act V of 1861 and Act XIII of 1880 with Bengal Acts IV of 1873, I of 1869, and V of 1880 were extended.

POLICE.

Military Police.

14. The Silchar detachment, which had been an independent unit, was absorbed in the Darrang Battalion and Silchar was converted into an outpost garrisoned from the Lushai Hills Military Police Battalion.

The discipline and efficiency of the various battalions was good.

Escorts were furnished when required for Political Officers touring in the hills, but the only operation of importance was the Aka Survey Expedition.

Eleven officers reverted to their regiments for active service and their place was taken by nine Military officers and two Assistant Superintendents of Police. Five hundred Gurkha volunteers were drafted to regiments on active service up to the 31st December 1914.

Civil Police.

15. The process of reorganising the district police was continued. The drill, discipline and musketry of the armed reserve was satisfactory. Seventy criminal charges were brought against the police, but out of the 64 in which enquiry was completed only 9 ended in conviction.

Crime.

16. There was an increase of 702 cases of cognizable crime for disposal. Of the cases investigated by the police, 37·4 per cent. were brought to trial and in 80·9 per cent. of these, convictions were secured. In the district of Kamrup eight members of a wandering gang of Mahratta beggars represented themselves as German emissaries and robbed some villagers. They were prosecuted and 5 were convicted. The system of warning landowners in cases of apprehended riots was continued with success in both the divisions.

During the year the identity of the man who was killed when attempting to assassinate Mr. Gordon, Subdivisional Officer, Maulvi Bazar, in 1912, was established.

Finance.

17. The total net cost of the Department during the year was Rs. 23,32,110 as against Rs. 23,24,281 in 1913.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Plains Districts.

18. The number of offences reported rose from 41,767 to 44,819 and the number of cases brought to trial from 19,520 to 19,743, but the percentage of convictions fell from 42·7 to 41·2.

In Sessions Courts 332 persons were convicted, 113 discharged or acquitted and the cases of 12 were referred for the orders of the High Court.

The sentences of Subordinate Courts were confirmed on appeal in 91 per cent. of the cases before the High Court, in 60·5 per cent. of the cases before the Sessions Courts and in 69·7 per cent. of the cases before the District Magistrates. The charges incurred in Criminal Courts amounted to Rs. 4,19,395 and the receipts to Rs. 2,59,499.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

In hill districts and frontier tracts 1,135 persons were convicted in 1,073 cases involving 1,468 persons.

JAILS.

Jails.

19. The daily average population rose from 1,917·91 to 2,021·37. The hospital admission rate and the death-rate per mille increased from 943·21 and 40·67 in 1913 to 1,132·90 and 43·53, respectively, in 1914. Dysentery was the chief cause of sickness and mortality. The ratios of admissions and deaths per mille of average strength from this disease were 340·54 and 18·36 against 285·04 and 12·37, respectively, in 1913. Measures have been taken to relieve overcrowding and to improve the sanitary condition of the jails, with a view to reducing the present high rates of sickness and mortality. The net cost per head of average strength was Rs. 89-15-0 against Rs. 86-1-0 in 1913.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Plains districts.

20. Forty-thousand eight hundred and twenty-six original suits were instituted during the year and of 52,853 cases on the files, 40,652 were disposed of. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 41,139, 51,656 and 40,466, respectively. There was an increase in the duration of suits in Munsifs' Courts. Of 27,837 applications received for execution of decrees, 21,858 were disposed of and a total sum of Rs. 5,84,277 was realised. Over 70 per cent. of execution cases were, however, quite unfruitful. The results of appeals to appellate Courts other than the High Court were less favourable to the lower Courts than in the preceding year, but 71 per cent. of the appeals decided after hearing were dismissed. The receipts of the Courts amounted to Rs. 6,94,511, and the charges to Rs. 3,08,123.

Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

In hill districts and frontier tracts 1,614 suits and 41 appeals were decided. Suits to the value of Rs. 1,76,500 were instituted.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

21. In the Assam Valley two *ex-officio* sub-registry offices were converted into wholetime offices, and one new office was opened in the Surma Valley. The ministerial establishment was re-organised and the pay of permanent muharrirs was increased. The number of documents registered rose to 88,109, receipts amounted to Rs. 1,09,550, and expenditure to Rs. 62,160.

The number of ceremonies registered by Muhammadan Marriage Registrars decreased by 49.

No new companies limited by shares were registered. Four companies went into voluntary liquidation and three were dealt with as defunct. At the close of the year 64 companies limited by shares were at work with a paid-up capital of Rs. 18,63,381.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Municipalities.

22. Income and expenditure increased but the incidence of taxation per head of population remained almost stationary. Two new Unions, one at Mangaldai and the other at North Lakhimpur, have been formed since the close of the year. On the whole the financial position of the Municipalities of the province was sound. Substantial grants from Government were made for the execution of large improvement schemes which matured during the year, and trained Sanitary Inspectors were appointed in ten Municipalities. The water-supply of the Gauhati Municipality and the Golaghat Union was improved, and the water-supply schemes at Dhubri, Silchar and Sylhet were under execution. Minor improvements were also effected in several Municipalities.

Local Boards.

23. The Assam Local Self-Government Bill passed through the local Legislative Council during the session of 1914-15. It has since become law and will be brought into effect on the 1st January 1916.

The aggregate receipts of the Boards decreased by more than 4 lakhs. This was due to smaller Government contributions, which, however, still amounted to nearly sixteen lakhs and a half. The expenditure on education again increased. The number of Lower Primary schools under the Boards rose by more than 3 per cent. Two Middle English schools were provincialised, one of them being, at the same time, raised to the High school status.

Medical expenditure rose by about Rs. 29,000 and a new dispensary was opened. The Boards employed nine lady doctors and 14 midwives and *dhais*.

The organisation of a number of village authorities was taken up experimentally. A few circles were formed and have since been placed under experienced Sub-Deputy Collectors. It is hoped that they will soon be in full working order.

Work on the previous year's water-supply programmes continued and a new grant of Rs. 20,000 was made to one of the Boards. A five years' scheme of water-supply for all Boards matured during the year and grants have since been made to commence the first year's work.

The special programmes of communications financed from the Government grants of 15 and 10 lakhs made in 1912 and 1913, respectively, kept the Boards fully employed, and substantial improvements to communications have been made by the Boards during the last three years with their own funds as well as with the grants referred to above.

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

Military (Volunteering.)

24. Owing to the increased interest in volunteering induced by the war, the number of all ranks in the two Volunteer Corps of the province rose from 974 on the 1st April 1914 to 1,386 on the 1st April 1915.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

25. The Subordinate Staff consisted of 24 officers, and there was an increase during the year of one Agricultural Supervisor, three Agricultural Inspectors and four Demonstrators. Proposals were submitted to the Secretary of State for the appointment of a Second Deputy Director of Agriculture and sanction was received after the close of the year. Sanction was accorded to the annual appointment of four apprentices at each of the two farms at Jorhat and Karimganj and the number of agricultural scholarships was raised from one to four.

Experiments were carried out at Jorhat in the effect of different manures and at Karimganj in the line breeding of rice. At Shillong over 1,000 maunds of potato were sold as seed. Difficulties in obtaining labour and the late arrival of the steam tackle delayed the planting of the cane in the Kamrup Sugarcane Farm. The Shillong Experimental Fruit Garden suffered from hail, but the 16 acres already planted out showed promise.

Demonstrations were conducted to show the value of flour phosphate and bone-meal and the use of three-roller-cane-crushing mills. Seventy thousand sets of improved varieties of sugarcane were sold.

Six leaflets and bulletins were issued during the year. The Weaving Master's work was appreciated and improved methods and implements gained in popularity.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Societies.

26. The number of co-operative societies rose from 249 to 301 and the working capital from Rs. 6,84,805 to Rs. 8,07,515. The reserve funds of central banks and unions rose from Rs. 6,125 to Rs. 7,348 and those of agricultural and non-agricultural societies from Rs. 52,954 to Rs. 62,236. The banking unions have done good work and have improved their position. The working of the non-agricultural societies was satisfactory. On the whole the year was one of progress.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and Crops.

27. The rainfall of the year was much below the average, and was normal only in the Eastern Hills. The outturn of rice came to 1,458,980 tons, an increase of about 9 per cent. over the preceding year. The outturn of other crops varied but little from the figures for 1913-14. The year was on the whole not a bad one for the cultivators.

FORESTS.

Forests.

28. The total area of reserved forest at the end of the year was 4,528 square miles, an increase of 146 square miles; proposals for further extension were under consideration. Special enquiries with a view to further reservations were made in Sylhet, and in the Khasi and Lushai Hills. No new working plans were framed, but as a result of the investigations of the Sylviculturist to the Forest Research Institute, it is anticipated that the policy as regards *sál* forests will undergo radical change. The Inspector General of Forests after a tour of inspection recommended the abandonment of the Nambor working plan and suggested amendments and alterations in the Holongapar and Jokai plans. Three reserves and 417 square miles of forest were surveyed. The Goalpara tramway worked at a profit, but the Department as a whole made a loss of Rs. 5,137. One hundred and ninety-five elephants were captured in the only two mahals open to hunting.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Tea.

29. Although lack of rain caused the season to close early in four districts, the outturn of tea rose by 4·25 per cent. to 208,227,104lbs. Exports to the United Kingdom increased and prices in London were high.

Mines.

30. No new mining leases or prospecting licenses were granted, but 4 prospecting licenses were renewed. The output of coal increased and of oil slightly decreased. The royalty realized also increased from Rs. 61,854 to Rs. 62,681, and the new Borjan Mine yielded 778 tons of coal.

FACTORIES.

Factories.

31. At the close of the year there were 15 factories in the province employing 2,714 workers. Ten of the factories were inspected and no adverse comments were made on them. No prosecution was instituted.

TRADE.

Rail and River-borne trade.

32. Climatic conditions were only moderately favourable, but there was an increase in the outturn of rice, tea and jute. Imports rose from 96,58,996 maunds in 1913-14 to 1,04,41,830½ maunds valued at Rs. 8,65,63,037 and exports from 1,27,78,352 to 1,32,16,374 maunds valued at Rs. 14,80,17,143. The value of the total trade between Assam and other provinces rose from Rs. 21,19,44,488 to Rs. 23,45,80,180.

33. The value of Frontier Trade registered was Rs. 36,10,055. There was an expansion of trade with all the hill tribes except the Towang and Charduar Bhutias. There was a considerable falling off in the quantity of opium exported. Frontier Trade.

PUBLIC WORKS.

34. The total expenditure on Provincial Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department amounted to Rs. 43,29,234. Of this, a sum of Rs. 9,69,113 was spent on original works in connection with provincial buildings and Rs. 1,74,872 on repairs. The expenditure on original works "communications" was Rs. 11,70,915, while a sum of Rs. 10,54,773 was spent on the maintenance of the existing provincial communications. Public Works.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

35. Gross receipts fell, as compared with the previous year, from Rs. 1,76,04,958 to Rs. 1,72,44,772 and gross expenditure from Rs. 1,86,99,933 to Rs. 1,71,53,295. Gross Revenue.

36. The provincial account opened with a balance of Rs. 55,88,803, which included Imperial assignments for various purposes aggregating Rs. 35,68,000. Receipts amounted to Rs. 1,40,87,266 and expenditure to Rs. 1,67,27,191. Further Imperial assignments, amounting to Rs. 4,48,000, were received during the year and, with the unspent balance of the former assignments, accounted for Rs. 20,28,000 out of the total closing balance of Rs. 29,48,878. Provincial Finance.

37. The only salt warehouse in the province was at Ajmiriganj. Imports increased by 4,000 maunds, clearances by 3,120 maunds, and the net revenue by Rs. 8,970. The retail price of salt increased from Rs. 2-4-4 per maund to Rs. 3. Salt.

38. The revenue demand under all heads amounted to Rs. 53,79,936 as against Rs. 52,51,867 in the previous year. The increase of 2·4 per cent. was due mainly to enhancements in the rate of the duty on *ganja* and of the issue price of opium and in part to small increases, amounting to 2·6 per cent. and 1·4 per cent., respectively, in the consumption of opium and country spirit. The consumption of *ganja* fell by 15·8 per cent. Important measures introduced at the beginning of the year included enhancements of the issue price of opium in certain districts and of the duty on *ganja* throughout the province; a reduction in the limits of private possession and retail sale of both opium and *ganja*; and the raising of the minimum age for purchase. Since the close of the year the issue price of opium has been increased in Sylhet and Cachar, and the duty on distillery spirit has been raised, minimum retail prices have been fixed for opium and *ganja*, and the hours of sale for country spirit, opium and *ganja* shops have been curtailed. Excise.

39. Receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts rose from Rs. 13,38,222 to Rs. 14,10,511. Judicial stamps contributed Rs. 70,995 and non-judicial stamps Rs. 1,294 towards the total increase of Rs. 72,289. Stamps.

40. The total income-tax receipts rose by 7·58 per cent. and amounted to Rs. 4,60,408. Income-tax.

41. The total ordinary land revenue demand rose from Rs. 75,11,733 to Rs. 75,74,477 and the miscellaneous land revenue demand fell from Rs. 7,14,869 to Rs. 6,67,751. 94·36 per cent. on account of ordinary land revenue demand and 96·91 per cent. on account of miscellaneous land revenue demand were collected. Land Revenue.

42. The total demand on account of local rates amounted to Rs. 8,79,071, of which 90·21 per cent. was collected and Rs. 99 were remitted. Local Rates.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS.

43. The year was on the whole unusually healthy. The birth-rate was slightly above, and the death-rate substantially below the average for the preceding five years, and the mortality from the more serious epidemic diseases was comparatively low. Vital Statistics.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

Immigration.

44. The most important feature of the year was the enactment by the Imperial Legislative Council of the Assam Labour and Emigration (Amendment) Act (VIII of 1915), under which the system of recruitment by contractors was abolished and a Labour Board, for the supervision of local agents and of the recruitment, engagement and emigration to labour districts of natives of India under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, VI of 1901 was constituted. The orders of the Government of India withdrawing the labour districts provisions of Act VI of 1901 from the four Upper Assam Valley districts with effect from 1st July 1915 were received after the close of the year.

The number of immigrants was larger than in any of the preceding four years and only 42 deaths occurred in transit.

The birth-rate showed a slight increase over that of last year while the death-rate fell slightly. Coolies brought three cases of ill-treatment against their employers and employers brought 15 cases of assault, unlawful assembly or rioting against coolies. These figures were lower than those of last year. The relations between the planters and the neighbouring villagers continued to be good.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable dispensaries.

45. The total number of dispensaries at the close of the year was 204, and 1,710,036 patients were treated. Nineteen new travelling dispensaries were opened during the year, but 20 had to be closed owing to the deputation of a number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons to military duty. There were during part of the year 26 travelling dispensaries with a total of 42,202 patients.

Lunatic Asylum.

46. At the close of the year there were 87 criminal and 204 non-criminal lunatics in the Tezpur Asylum. The provision of ample air space and of segregation sheds improved the health of the inmates and checked the mortality from tubercular disease and, in spite of the increase in the number of inmates, the number of deaths decreased considerably.

SANITATION.

Sanitation.

47. Municipal bodies spent Rs. 3,70,076 on sanitation. Piped water-supply projects for Sylhet, Tezpur, Dhubri and Cherrapoonjee were approved, and substantial grants were made towards their execution. Less ambitious water-supply schemes were sanctioned for Golaghat, Nazira and Jowai, and were partly or wholly financed by Government. A substantial increase of expenditure occurred under the head "Conservancy" in many Municipalities. Good progress was made in the improvement of rural water-supply with the Government grant of Rs. 10,000 made to each Local Board in 1913, and a special scheme for improving the water-supply along the banks of the Kalang river in Nowgong was started.

A large decrease in the number of deaths from *Kala-azar* affords grounds for the hope that the measures taken to eradicate it from the province will prove successful.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination.

48. The number of operations performed in the province was 320,016 against 336,649 in the previous year. There was an appreciable increase of vaccinations in five districts, and a substantial decrease in four, while four districts showed no change. Inspection by Civil Surgeons was inadequate in all districts save Cachar and Nowgong. The rate of mortality from small-pox declined from ·40 to ·37 per mille.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Education.

49. The total number of institutions rose from 4,578 to 4,822, the enrolment from 215,141 to 233,883, and the expenditure on education from Rs. 23,28,287 to Rs. 26,54,237.

The scheme for the improvement of the Cotton College was practically completed. The development of the Murarichand College had to be held back owing to the war, but the college was improved on its present basis. The enrolment in the two colleges rose from 442 to 551.

In secondary education expansion continued on the lines already laid down. The aided high school at Maulvi Bazar was provincialised, and the development of Government high schools continued within the two-section limit.

Middle English schools declined both in number and enrolment. There was a further marked recovery in the popularity of middle vernacular schools and a satisfactory advance in primary education. The syllabus of studies for vernacular schools was revised, and modifications of some importance were introduced in the classification of schools and the system of examinations.

In Muhammadan education there has been progress all along the line. A representative conference which was summoned by the Chief Commissioner to consider the whole question of Muhammadan education submitted their recommendations.

Building operations for a secondary school for European and Anglo-Indian boys at Shillong and for a Convent school at Haflong were in progress.

Female education continued to make steady progress.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature and the Press.

50. The number of publications received and catalogued was 57 against 49 in the preceding year. Fifteen newspapers and nine periodicals were published during the year.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

51. Special repairs were undertaken by the Public Works Department to the Sibdole temple at Gaurisagar, the Bishnudole temple at Sibsagar and to the Bishnudole temple at Jaisagar.

The Bordole temple at Bishwanath in Darrang district, two inscribed stones at Maibong in the North Cachar Hills, and certain masonry remains at and near Tezpur were declared protected monuments under Act VII of 1904 during the year.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

STATIONERY.

Stationery.

52. Considerable savings were effected by almost all Departments, but the expenditure *per capita* varied considerably in offices of a similar character.

PRINTING.

Printing.

53. There was a small increase in cash receipts and a decrease in expenditure. The amount paid to workmen was again in excess of their outturn.

VETERINARY.

Veterinary.

54. The staff remained below sanctioned strength, but the increase in the pay of Veterinary Assistants should make the Department more popular.

There was a very considerable increase in the number of deaths from contagious diseases, which was probably largely due to better reporting. Inoculation, however, showed more favourable results and there was a marked increase in the work done by itinerary assistants. The scheme for the improvement of live stock by the introduction of selected bulls from Manipur was postponed as funds were not available.

PART II:

THE REPORT

PART II.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1914-1915.

PART II.—Report.

CHAPTER I.

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[*See* General Administration Report, 1911-1912, Part II, pages 1-75].

SECTION 7.—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the Administration.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Archdale Earle, K. C. I. E., was on leave from the 13th May until the 9th September 1914. The Hon'ble Lieut.-Colonel P. R. T. Gurdon, C. S. I., Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, officiated during his absence.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON THE ADMINISTRATION.

Effects of the war on the Administration.

2. The province responded as cordially and loyally as other provinces of India to the call for co-operation as regards the war and all sections of the community vied with one another in expressions of loyalty. They did not however confine themselves to mere lip service for they came forward most willingly with offers of support and with contributions towards the relief of the soldiers and their families and of others adversely affected. A very intelligent interest was displayed by the educated classes in the operations and to this intelligent interest may be attributed the general absence in this province of foolish rumours and the general prevalence of sober opinions.

The outbreak of war found 24 officers on leave, and of these 17 were recalled to duty, including the Chief Commissioner himself, 5 officers of the Indian Civil Service, 2 Military officers of the Assam Commission, 2 officers each of the Police and Forest Departments and 3 of the Medical and Public Works Departments. To compensate for loss of officiating promotion in the graded services consequent on the abnormally small number of leave vacancies, the Government of India sanctioned minimum rates of pay for officers of the Assam Commission and of the Police. In the general disturbance in the money market which occurred when hostilities first broke out some difficulty was experienced in financing tea gardens, but matters quickly righted themselves and a year which threatened to be disastrous to this industry proved exceptionally favourable. Petty traders in some cases took advantage of the situation to enhance prices unduly, but their efforts were frustrated by the formation of local

prices committees which brought their influence to bear with satisfactory results, and it was not in consequence necessary for Government to take any stringent action to regulate prices. As a result of the decreased purchasing power of Bengal cultivators consequent on the fall in the price of jute the timber trade of Assam suffered severely. Subscriptions to the Imperial Indian Relief Fund by the end of the year had reached the not inconsiderable figure of Rs. 1,13.771-4-5. One of the most interesting donations was the contribution of Rs. 1,000 by a Chief in the Lushai Hills.

A resolution was passed unanimously at a meeting of the Assam Legislative Council held on the 10th November 1914 to the effect that "this Council desires to give expression to its feelings of unflinching loyalty and enthusiastic devotion to the throne and person of His Majesty the King-Emperor and to give an assurance to the Government of its firm resolve to give full-hearted support to the measures that have been or may be found necessary to adopt for securing complete success to the British Arms in the Great War which our August Sovereign has been forced to enter in the honourable and chivalrous discharge of treaty obligations to a friendly State, or for preserving the safety and welfare of the Empire. That the Council further places on record its sense of profound gratitude to His Majesty's Government for permitting Indian troops for the first time to take part in a European war."

In the Council Meeting held on the 5th November 1915 the Chief Commissioner summarised the part played by the province in the war as follows :—

"The war is still of course the absorbing topic of the day, and the Hon'ble Members will be glad to hear from me how the Province of Assam has been trying to play its part in that great conflict.

Taking first the case of the regular troops. we have released the services of a whole battalion, while our remaining battalion, the 123rd Outram Rifles, has already furnished about 1,000 men for the front and expects to go on sending further drafts, at the same time keeping up its strength by recruitment. We have also sent a large number of men, both non-officials and officials, to the Indian Army Reserve of Officers.

From the Military Police we have already sent one thousand volunteers ; two hundred will start by the middle of November, and another two hundred by the middle of January, and so on. We have, further, sent two Havildars, two Naiks, two Lance-Corporals and nine sepoys required for signal work in France and Mesopotamia. We are also, thanks to the assistance given to the recruiting officers by civil officers, recruiting as rapidly as possible so as to enable us to continue to send further drafts regularly after January. I shall not be content unless we can send at least another thousand men in the next year. All this will of course be done while we at the same time keep up to full strength."

A large number of Europeans, both non-official and official, joined the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. The various departments of Government service were represented as follows at the time when this report went to press :—Indian Civil Service 6, Police 4, Forest 5, Agriculture 1, Accounts 1, Survey 1. In addition, 13 officers from the Medical Department and 4 from the Public Works Department were recalled to Military duty.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Feudatory States.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-1912, Part II, pages 76-85.]

SECTION 9.—Relations with Tributary States and Frontier affairs.

FEUDATORY STATES.

MANIPUR.

[Tribute :—Rs. 50 000. Population (1911) 3,46,222. Average gross revenue for last five years Rs. 5,50,270. Military Police :—7 officers and 223 men. Products :—rice, vegetables, sugarcane, tobacco, wax, tea-seed and other forest products, ponies, cattle. Manufactures :—silk, cotton cloth, brass and other metal utensils, mustard oil, a few articles of ivory and jewellery, some leather work and coarse salt. Minerals :—iron, limestone, copper.]

[Raja :—His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh, aged 29 years, caste Kshatriya. His Highness has three daughters by his first wife Rani Ngangbom Dhanamanjuri Ibemacha ; two sons, aged 7 and 4 years, by his second wife Rani Chingakhom Syama Sakhi ; one daughter by his third wife Rani Ngangbom Priya Sakhi ; and one son, aged 1 year, by his fifth wife Rani Haobom Lilabati.]

General. 3. The year was uneventful as regards purely internal affairs. But the news of the outbreak of war in Europehada somewhat disturbing effect upon the public mind. Many false rumours were circulated. Measures were promptly taken to contradit and

check the spread of wild rumours, to allay public uneasiness and to prevent the artificial inflation of prices. The people soon realised that they had nothing to fear and that the war was not likely to affect them, and matters resumed their normal aspect.

The agitation against the *pothang* taxes mentioned in the last year's report entirely disappeared.

Hill tribes.

4. The conduct of the hill tribes was generally satisfactory. The tribes inhabiting the unadministered tract between Manipur, Burma, the Naga Hills and the Tizu or Namtalei river were again troublesome and various petty acts of aggression were committed. Punitive measures were not, however, undertaken against them in view of the abnormal conditions produced by the war.

Administration of the land revenue.

5. During the year 3,276 *bighas* of waste land were taken up for cultivation and 1,758 *bighas* of settled land were relinquished. The demand on account of land revenue including arrears was Rs. 3,64,268 and of this Rs. 3,40,742 or 93·54 per cent. were collected, Rs. 2,252 were remitted, Rs. 370 were paid as fees to mauzadars and Rs. 20,904 remained outstanding. The demand on account of the *pothang* land-tax was Rs. 68,659 of which Rs. 231 were remitted and Rs. 65,260 were collected. House-tax in the hills was levied at the usual rate of Rs. 3 on all houses in the hills and ten annas on the houses of all Nagas and Kukis cultivating land in the valley or Jiribam. The demand, including arrears of Rs. 14,570, was Rs. 88,969 of which Rs. 81,232 were collected.

Production and trade.

6. The area under rice cultivation is about 1,33,000 acres and for all other crops together only 13,000 acres; owing to unfavourable weather the outturn was below normal. The price of rice continued to rise and in February the Durbar was compelled to prohibit the export of rice in order to conserve supplies. Sericulture again was not very successful, although the crop on the whole was better than usual. For weaving modern looms have not yet come into use. The Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, completed their girdling operations in the forests on the Burma border. Along the Dimapur-Manipur road, which is the chief avenue of trade, exports were 1,64,276 maunds, mainly rice, and imports 88,437 maunds, salt (26,234 maunds) betel-nut (21,090 maunds) and kerosine oil (14,313 maunds) being the principal items. For the greater part of the year there was an embargo on the export of cattle, but cattle and ponies, as usual, passed through the State on their way from Burma.

Justice.

7. The number of offences reported rose from 643 to 726 and the number of persons brought to trial from 1,083 to 1,131 : of these persons 342 were convicted and 574 were acquitted or discharged. The Civil Courts disposed of 3,224 suits of an aggregate value of Rs. 1,79,548 as against 2,780 in the preceding year, and of 536 applications for execution of decrees.

Finance.

8. The gross total revenue of the State, including the *pothang* taxes but excluding the water-rate, was Rs. 6,37,742 as against Rs. 5,91,327 in the previous year, the ordinary revenue being Rs. 5,43,450 as against Rs. 5,10,595 and the *pothang* taxes Rs. 94,292 as against Rs. 80,732. Receipts increased under the heads "Land revenue", "Hill tribes", "Ferry revenue", "Salt revenue", "Forests", "Miscellaneous" and "*pothang* taxes", and decreased under the heads "Fisheries", "Foreigners' tax", "Tea seed", "Law and Justice", "Jail" and "Excise". The total expenditure was Rs. 6,19,900 against Rs. 6,33,455 in the previous year. At the close of the year the State was indebted to Government on account of the water-works loan, to the extent of Rs. 1,50,424. The closing balance was Rs. 3,51,016 including Rs. 37,218 on account of the *pothang* fund and Rs. 5,843 on account of the water-rate. Foreigners trading in the State were assessed to income-tax at the rates prevailing in British India and were further required to pay license fees ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 according to the extent of their trade. A water-rate was collected for the first time and a sum of Rs. 10,960 was realised during the year out of the total demand of Rs. 12,628. The rate for foreigners was Rs. 2 and for Manipuris Rs. 1-8 a house.

Miscellaneous.

9. There was a decline in the number of pupils reading in primary schools due to the introduction of fees, which were in consequence abolished after the close of the year. Public health, on the whole, was good and there was comparatively little cattle-disease.

FRONTIER TRIBES.

General.

10. During the year the southern boundaries of the Eastern, Central and Western Sections of the North-East Frontier as well as of the new Lakhimpur Frontier Tract were formally notified, and rules for the administration of these Tracts were issued. The existence of a state of war in Europe rendered it inadvisable to advance far beyond the administered boundary and the year was uneventful in comparison with

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

the previous period of energetic exploration. In the Western Section peace prevailed, health was good, and no epidemics were reported. Crops were only moderate owing to shortage of rain, and in some areas rats caused damage. A new road was made to Doimara and the old mule track was improved with the result that traffic increased.

There was steady progress in closer relations with the tribes in the Central and Eastern Sections.

Bhutias. 11. The customary fair was held at Darranga and was attended by about 3,000 Bhutias; there was a slight increase in trade.

Monbas. 12. Larger numbers than usual attended the Udalguri fair: their conduct was good and the customary *posa* of Rs. 5,000 was paid to the Monk Jongpens at Talukjong. *Posa* was, as usual, distributed in Durbar at Tezpur to the villages of Rupa, Shergaon and Tembang.

Akas. 13. Our relations with the Akas were most friendly and the expedition of the preceding year apparently had excellent results. *Posa* was paid to the Chief as usual.

Daflas and Miri Abors. 14. Daflas and Miri Abors came down to the plains in larger numbers than usual and received their customary *posa*.

Apatamangs. 15. A number of Apatamangs visited the plains for trade and behaved well.

Abors 16. On the whole the behaviour of the Abors was satisfactory. The foot-hills villages, Pasi, Minyong and Galong as far as the Simen river, showed that they realised that they had become British subjects and referred disputes for settlement to the Assistant Political Officer. The Padam foot-hills villages were assessed to poll-tax and no objection was made. The villages of Yemsing and Koiyu were visited without opposition. A force of Military Police was sent to Rotung to guard the trade route and experiments in wet rice cultivation were attempted there, but the hillmen showed little inclination to adopt this new method of cultivation.

Mishmis. 17. The Chulikata and Bebejiya Mishmis behaved satisfactorily and came down in increased numbers during the cold weather from very far in the interior.

Khamtis and Singphos. 18. The Khamtis gave no trouble. Their Chief Chowna was invested with the title of a Raja by the Chief Commissioner. Two of the Singphos convicted of the murder of Kayas at Wakhet were executed and the third died in Jail.

Margherita, Rangpang, Barduaria, Namsangya, Barmithania Nagas. 19. The conduct of Nagas bordering on the Lakhimpur district was good. It was discovered that the persons responsible for the theft of rails near Margherita were Rangpang Nagas from the Maitai and Rangkhu villages. They were prohibited from entering British territory and the thefts then ceased.

Naga Hills. 20. The trans-frontier villages caused no trouble to Government, but inter-village raiding went on, and nine affairs were reported in which in all 60 heads were supposed to have been taken.

Khasi and Jaintia Hills. 21. U Kmuin Manik became Siem of Mylliem in place of his brother, the late U Ron Singh. There was some improvement in the affairs of Mawsynram and boundaries were settled between Mawlong and the Shella confederacies and between Bhowal and Malaisohmat.

Lushai Hills, Garo Hills, Hill Tippera. 22. Politically the year was uneventful in the Lushai and Garo Hills. Relations with the Raja of Hill Tippera continued to be friendly.

SECTION 10.—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1914-15.]

Condition of the people. 23. The districts of Cachar and Sylhet were visited by floods in June and July which seriously injured the summer rice in the former and the long-stemmed rice in the latter district. To relieve distress agricultural loans were freely distributed and gratuitious relief had to be given on a large scale. The fall in the jute market affected the jute growing tracts, but the area under that crop is small in comparison with the districts of Eastern Bengal. In the North Cachar Hills the effects of a series of bad years were severely felt and agricultural loans were freely distributed and recoveries of instalments were postponed. In the Naga Hills the year was on the whole a good one and in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills though the rice crop was below the average potatoes, which are the commercial crop, did well. In the Lushai Hills neither broadcast crops nor wet rice were up to the average and some damage was done by rats.

In the Assam Valley the year was on the whole one of average prosperity. The winter rice suffered from the early cessation of the rains throughout this Valley and though summer rice yielded a fair return in the districts of Lakhimpur and Goalpara it was below the normal in the Garo Hills, Nowgong and Kamrup.

Prices of most commodities rose at the outbreak of war, but steps were taken to check any fictitious rise and affairs soon resumed their normal course. The migration of cultivators from Eastern Bengal into the Assam Valley and the Sunamganj subdivision of Sylhet continued and there was a steady flow of Sonthals from Jalpaiguri into the Eastern Duars of Goalpara. There was some movement across the Hills from Hailakandi to Nowgong, a movement which will be checked so long as the hill section remains closed. The colonisation of the Nambor forest in the district of Sibsagar did not make very material progress and it was realized that it was impossible to hope for any great advance in that direction while more attractive localities still remained unsettled.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION I.—REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1914-15.]

General. 24. An account of the demand and collection of land revenue will be found in Chapter V—" Revenue and Finance." During the year there was an increase of 262 square miles in the settled area and the revenue demand rose by Rs. 58,469 to Rs. 72,43,585, the incidence of revenue per square mile being Rs. 531·01.

Permanently-settled estates. 25. There was no alteration in the area and revenue demand of the permanently-settled estates in the Assam Valley Division. In the Surma Valley, there was no considerable change, but at Habiganj the tauzis were re-written and actual calculation led to an addition of 36 estates with a revenue demand of Rs. 26, while 4 estates in South Sylhet with a revenue of Rs. 10 were purchased by Government at the sales for arrears of revenue and transferred from the " permanently-settled " to the " temporarily-settled " class. The revenue demand amounted to Rs. 4,62,277 of which Rs. 3,80,091 were collected and Rs. 82,186 remained outstanding, all of which was due from proprietors in Sylhet.

Temporarily-settled estates. 26. Temporarily-settled estates, a term which does not include land taken up for special cultivation under special rules, form 41·94 per cent. of the total settled area of the province and contribute 89·81 per cent of the total revenue. The area settled at full rates for ordinary cultivation in the Surma Valley Division was 748,520 acres or 833 acres less than in the previous year, the decrease being due to the cancellation of annual *pattas* in the Karimganj subdivision. The revenue demand increased from Rs. 8,09,419 to Rs. 8,12,851. The rate of increase was slightly greater than in the preceding year and is attributed to new settlements and progressive assessment. 83·35 per cent. on the current and 98·98 per cent. on the arrear account were collected. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills the percentage of current collections fell from 97·45 to 70·76 on account of the failure of the crops in portions of the Jowai subdivision. The expansion of cultivation continued unabated in the Assam Valley Division. In the four districts of Kamrup, Nowgong, Darrang and Sibsagar there was an increase of 29,031 acres in the area settled at full rates. In Lakhimpur there was an increase of only 2,552 acres, but 1,739 acres had been transferred from this district to the Sadiya Frontier Tract. In Goalpara there was a nominal decrease of 42,568 acres, due to the transfer of the Sidli Duar to the category of special settlements. The current demand rose from Rs. 56,08,257 to Rs. 56,60,755 and the arrear demand fell from Rs. 61,638 to Rs. 41,512. 97·43 per cent. on the current and 86·05 per cent. on the arrear account were collected and Rs. 7,206 remitted. Under " special settlements " there was an increase of 170,969 acres in area and of Rs. 59,099 in revenue, due to the cause specified above.

Remittances by special money-orders. 27. The system of remitting revenue and local rates by postal money-order is in force only in Sylhet. The number of such money-orders fell from 3,361 to 2,675 and the amount remitted from Rs. 11,678 to Rs. 9,271.

Coercive measures employed for collection of revenue. 28. Owing to the abolition of the issue of the notices of demand in the temporarily-settled areas of the Assam Valley the number of estates on the owners of which notices of demand were served decreased by 18,119. The number of attachments issued decreased by 657, while the number of sales of moveables and immoveables increased by 65. The position of mauzadars was materially improved. Selected mauzadars were invested with power of issuing attachment orders themselves and all mauzadars were appointed to be *ex-officio* Assistant Settlement Officers and vested with authority to dispose of uncontested mutation and partition cases in the field. The date of payment of the last instalment of revenue due from mauzadars was extended from May 1st to May 31st and it was left to the discretion of the Deputy Commissioners to accept bonds for mauzadars' security up to a term not exceeding 5 years.

Processes. 29. The number of processes issued rose from 187,661 to 191,853 and the fees realised fell from Rs. 1,33,478 to Rs. 1,30,147.

Miscellaneous land revenue. 30. The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue fell from Rs. 7,14,869 to Rs. 6,67,751 of which 96·91 per cent. was collected, Rs. 4,202 remitted, and Rs. 16,392 remained outstanding.

31. The only transaction under the Land Improvement Loans Act was the grant of a loan of Rs. 1,000 in Cachar. Rs. 67,327 were advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, of which Rs. 39,290 were distributed in the Assam Valley Division, in which a sum of Rs. 7,376 was outstanding on account of instalments overdue with interest at the close of the year. Difficulty was experienced in enforcing the repayment of loans granted in the Lushai Hills in 1911-12, Rs. 42,198 being realised, while Rs. 2,539 were remitted of the total sum of Rs. 1,55,187 due. Realisations of principal and interest both in Cachar and Sylhet were poor, Rs. 6,402 being recovered in the former out of a sum of Rs. 11,878 due and Rs. 94,369 only in the latter district out of a sum of Rs. 1,25,059 due. Loans.

32. No new work of importance was undertaken in the Surma Valley. In the Assam Valley, part of the bed of the Alpha river in Kamrup was excavated with satisfactory results by the mauzadar of Dharmapur with the aid of the villagers, sandbars were removed from the bed of the Kallang and rocks obstructing the passage of the Kapili river near Dharamtul were blown up. The embankment along the Kharoi river in Darrang was repaired and the river side embankments of the Sibsagar district were maintained in fair order, while measures were taken with some success to protect Dibrugarh from erosion by the Brahmaputra. Other revenue work.

33. Omitting summary partitions under rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual 293 partition cases were instituted during the year. Of the total of 569 cases, 271 were disposed of, leaving 298 cases pending at the close of the year. Partitions.

SECTION 2.—SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

[*See* Report on Survey and Settlement Operations in Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1915.]

34. Captain C. M. Thompson, I.A., Assistant Director of Surveys, who had his headquarters at Shillong, reverted to military duty in January 1915, and Mr. T. Shaw, a retired officer of the Provincial Service of the Survey of India, took over charge from him. The question of the future management of the Department was under the consideration of the Local Administration during the year, and with the approval of the Government of India, it has since been decided to entrust the control of the Assam Surveys to the Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, as an experimental measure. Survey.

In the Goalpara district the demarcation of a portion of the boundary between the Sidli and Chirang Duars was in progress. In Kamrup the survey of Messrs. Birkmyre's grant for jute cultivation, the relaying of the lost traverse stations in 4 villages of the Nalbari Circle, and the check of extension traverse work done in the preceding year were completed.

In Cachar, the traverse survey of two tea grants and of extension cultivation, and the boundary survey of a forest block to the south of the Paloi tea garden, were carried out. The boundaries of thak Nos. 5835(Barthal) and 5836(Mehakhal) were relaid in Sylhet, and the traverse work done in the preceding year in parganas Renga, Dakhinkach, and Baraya were checked. The traverse party also worked in the districts of Lakhimpur, Darrang, Sibsagar, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the Garo Hills.

The Shillong Drawing office printed 37,766 copies of maps for Assam, of which 11,916 were village maps. Great progress was made in the preparation of School maps for the province. Out of 54 pupils who attended the mandals' training class in the Survey School near Gauhati, 42 passed the tests successfully. Two Assistant Commissioners, two Extra Assistant Commissioners and 9 Sub-Deputy Collectors were also trained in survey and settlement work and declared to be proficient.

35. In the Guma Duar of Goalpara the survey and classification of the land were completed and assessment at the revised rates was introduced after the close of the year. The settlement will take effect from the 1st April 1915 and will be in force for a term of 20 years. Settlement.

The year's programme of the Cachar resettlement now in progress comprised map revision, record writing, area calculation and the preparation of draft *Jamabandis* for three groups and record attestation for the three in which the above operations had been completed in the previous year. The first portion of the programme was finished, but record attestation proved heavier than was expected and, though lightened by transfer and omission of certain areas, could not be completed. The abnormally heavy floods of the year seriously delayed work, both in the field and in office.

The revision of the settlement of the Jaintia parganas was commenced on the 1st October 1914 by Mr. W. L. Scott, who held charge of this duty in addition to his work as Settlement Officer, Cachar, and, with the help of two Assistant Settlement

Officers, he completed the field work of map revision, record correction, and classification for the whole area. Area calculation and preparation of the draft *Jamabandis* and *kacha pattas* were also well advanced at the close of the year.

In the Sylhet district, three mauzas, *viz.*, Renga, Baraya, and Dakhinkach, with an area of about 95 square miles were taken up for survey and settlement. These mauzas are permanently settled and work in them is new and experimental in nature. During the year under report their cadastral survey was finished. In addition to this, *khanapuri* (preliminary record writing) and calculation of area were completed, all *parchas* (copies of records for issue to the person affected) were written up and satisfactory progress was made with the preparation of crop statistics. The distribution of *parchas* was begun before the year closed.

Extension surveys were carried out by the Land Records agency in the districts of Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The area actually surveyed was 129 square miles.

SECTION 3.—Land Records.

Land Records.

36. The sanctioned strength of supervisor kanungoes was increased by three and of mandals by nine.

SECTION 4.—Settlement for special cultivation (waste lands).

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1914-15.]

Settlement for special cultivation.

37. The area settled for special cultivation increased by 8,506 acres to 1,162,427 acres and the revenue assessed thereon by Rs. 10,344 to Rs. 7,41,799. The increase occurred chiefly in the districts of Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

Nil.

SECTION 6.—Wards' Estates.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1914-15.]

General.

38. The assumption of the estate of Babu Jogendra Chandra Das and others of Birasri in the Karimganj subdivision raised the number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards from 10 to 11. No estate was released during the year as, though the proprietors of the Hoshenpur estate were anxious to resume management of their property, they were unable to agree among themselves as to the particular portions of the estate to be sold to raise the money to repay the loan taken from the Countess of Dufferin Fund.

Revenue, rent, and cesses.

39. Of the total amount of Rs. 30,380 due to Government on current and arrear demand as revenue and cesses, all but Rs. 105 was paid. The only estate which defaulted with regard to rent and cesses due to superior landlords was the Khan Bahadur's, and in that case arrears were paid in full after the close of the year.

Collections.

40. There was a serious decline in the collection of revenue and cesses due to the estates during the year. Total collections, both current and arrear demands, only amounted to 86·41 per cent. of the current demand. All the estates shared in this decrease, except the Khan Bahadur's. The results in the Kumar's estate were particularly poor, collections only amounting to 77 per cent. of the current demand, while the arrears which the tenants were able to pay and ought to be made to pay were heavy—such arrears were also heavy in the estates of Ilias Ali and Mufti Nuruddin. In the Prithimpasa estate the tenants combined to withstand the enhancements made as the results of the survey of Naldari and other villages, while in the Bhanugach circle they withheld rent pending final adjustment of the estate boundary. The reason assigned for the defect in collections was the poor character of the autumn crop of 1914 and of the winter crop on the high lands.

Debts.

41. Substantial progress was made towards the clearing off of the debts of the estate of the Kumar Gopika Raman Ray, which is heavily encumbered, and three-quarters of a lakh was paid off during the year. Large reductions were also made in the debts of the Khan Bahadur and Birasri estates, but the Hoshenpur and Mufti estates were able to do but little towards the liquidation of their liabilities.

42. Teh cost of management fell from 20 to 19·18 per cent. of the curent demand.

Management charges and improvement.

The Prithimpasa estate spent a considerable sum on schools, dispensaries, and other works of public utility, and the estate of the Kumar Gopika Raman Ray contributed a sum of Rs. 5,424 towards the maintenance of the Raja Girish Chandra High School in Sylhet.

SECTION 7.—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1914-15.]

Material condition of the people.

43. The condition of the cultivators in the Surma Valley was good until the occurrence of the floods of June, which, followed by a second flood of an unprecedented height in July, did considerable damage. Agricultural loans had to be freely distributed and gratuitous relief had to be given on a large scale. In the Assam Valley although the year was not favourable to agriculture and jute growers were hit by the fall in the market, the condition of the cultivating class was on the whole fair.

The price of rice ruled high in all the districts of the Assam Valley on account of a poor harvest reaped during the year under report. In the Surma Valley the price of rice rose from time to time when communications were interrupted by the floods, but importation of Rangoon rice soon brought it down.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 92-94.]

SECTION 2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

44. The Assam Local Self-Government Act, 1915, was passed by the Assam Legislative Council during the year.

In the newly-formed Central and Eastern, and Western Sections of the North-East Frontier Tracts and the Lakhimpur Frontier Tract the operation of all enactments except the Assam Frontier Tracts Regulation, II of 1880, was barred, and the provisions of the Scheduled Districts Act, XIV of 1874, Indian Penal Code, XLV of 1860, Indian Police Act, V of 1861, Indian Arms Act, XI of 1878, Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, I of 1886, with the exception of sections 3 to 159, Assam Forest Regulation, VII of 1891, Whipping Act, IV of 1909, Eastern Bengal and Assam Military Police Act, III of 1912, Elephant Preservation Act, VI of 1879, and section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, V of 1898, and sections 22, 23, 38(2), and 40 of the Chin Hills Regulation, V of 1896, with certain restrictions and modifications, were extended.

The Civil Procedure Code, except section 1 and sections 155 to 158, was declared to be in force in the Eastern Duars of the Goalpara district.

The provisions of Part X of the Bengal Act III of 1884 were extended to the Habiganj Municipality and those of Part IX of the same Act to the Sunamganj Municipality, while the provisions of certain sections of Part VI were extended to the Habiganj and Jorhat Municipalities. Orders were issued, under section 346 of Act III of 1884 and under section 295 of Act V of 1876, to certain municipalities to provide for the registration of births and deaths. Bengal Act IV of 1873 was extended to the Maulvi Bazar and Nazira Unions. Part XI of Bengal Act III of 1884 was extended to the Tezpur Municipality.

The following Acts were extended to the Nowgong Municipality, Act V of 1861 (Police Act), Bengal Act IV of 1873 (Registration of births and deaths), Bengal Act I of 1869 (Bengal Cruelty to Animals Act), Act XIII of 1880 (Vaccination Act), Bengal Act V of 1880 (the Bengal Vaccination Act).

SECTION 3.—POLICE.

MILITARY POLICE.

Personnel.

45. Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, C.I.E., retired at the beginning of the year and, owing to the war, many other changes took place among the officers of the Military Police. Majors C. Bliss, C.I.E., and H. C. Nicolay, Captains Sir G. D. S. Dunbar, A. M. Graham, A. L. M. Molesworth, G. D. Mathew, L. A. Bethell, J. H. Hardcastle, E. Grose and A. D. Smith, and Lieutenant A. B. Hay Webb reverted to their regiments and were succeeded by Major A. H. Arbuthnot, Captains E. L. Croslegh, J. S. Ring, C. E. Montefiore, and M. Ostrehan and Lieutenants H. L. F. Falkland and M. C. Coote. Captains Hensley and Lane were appointed to officiate as Commandants and Messrs. Bartley and Crace of the Civil Police, as Assistant Commandants.

It was with deep regret that news was received of the death on active service of Major C. Bliss, C.I.E., and of Captains A. Graham and G. D. Mathew. Major H. C. Nicolay was reported as missing and Captain A. L. M. Molesworth was wounded.

The Gurkhas of the Military Police responded admirably to a call for volunteers to join the army, and, before the end of 1914, 5 Indian officers, 14 non-commissioned officers and 500 sepoys had been drafted to Gurkha regiments at the front.

Strength and distribution.

46. Large numbers of recruits were enlisted for the new Darrang Battalion and to fill the place of volunteers transferred to regular regiments. Owing to the increased demand for Gurkha recruits, the former standard of physique had to be lowered, but in spite of this demand the percentage of Gurkha recruits was even higher than in the previous year, being 83·81 out of 859 as compared with 83·10 out of 444 recruits.

The Silchar detachment was absorbed into the new Darrang Battalion, and in its place a detachment from the Lushai Hills Battalion was stationed at Silchar.

47. The scarcity of old soldiers at headquarters and the presence of large numbers of recruits made training a difficult task, but the close order drill and musketry of all battalions were reported to be good and discipline was satisfactory. Efficiency.

48. Casualties decreased under the heads 'discharge,' 'death' and 'dismissal', but there was a considerable increase in the number of men retiring or failing to join on expiry of leave. This is attributed to the unusually heavy work done by the Military Police since 1911. Casualties.

49. The number of death decreased from 34 to 26, but the percentage of admissions into hospital to the actual strength of the force rose from 62·80 to 72·20. Health.

50. Escorts to Political Officers were provided on five occasions in the North-East Frontier Tract and once to the Deputy Commissioner of the Naga Hills. A guard of 26 rifles was posted at Hathiputi temporarily to stop a raid by Abors on neighbouring Daflas. But the most important work of the year was done by the escort on the Aka promenade, which acquitted itself admirably when attacked by Daflas in difficult country. Military operation and Frontier posts.

The supply of 500 volunteers to Gurkha regiments led to the temporary withdrawal of outposts at Tamlu, Balek, Tirap, Difu, Nizamghat, Dijmur, Singlijan, Harmuti, Udalguri and Tezpur, and the guards at Mokokchang, Wakching, Kobo and Pasighat were reduced in strength.

CIVIL POLICE.

51. The re-organisation of the civil police was continued during the year and there was a net increase of 15 officers and 122 men to the sanctioned strength of the force. Recruiting, however, was not so successful and only 429 men were enlisted as compared with 510 in 1913. Of the recruits, 250 were enlisted locally. Strength.

The practice of training Sub-Inspectors in drill at headquarters and of drilling men twice a week at thanas was continued with fair results.

The work of Circle Inspectors was not unsatisfactory. Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors were reported to have a fair knowledge of their charges and in some cases to have shown considerable detective ability.

52. The numbers of judicial punishments rose from 43 to 69, but departmental punishments fell from 1,065 to 895. Seventy criminal charges were brought against the police as compared with 75 in 1913. Of these, 21 were charges of torture, extortion and bribery. All of the three cases of torture were found to be false and seven out of the ten cases of extortion fell in the same category. Only one of the cases of bribery was declared true. Of the 64 charges brought against the police, which were decided during the year, more than half were found to be false and only 20 were declared to be true. One civil suit was brought against a Sub-Inspector and a Head Constable, but it was withdrawn by the plaintiff. Conduct.

53. The percentage of admissions to hospital rose from 33·3 to 37·4 during the year, but the number of deaths fell from 36 to 29. Health.

The supply of wooden bedsteads and mosquito nets was sanctioned for men serving in localities in which malaria is unusually prevalent.

54. The drill, discipline, and musketry of the armed reserve was satisfactory, especially in the Sylhet district, where this force is reported to compare not unfavourably with the Military Police and to have acquitted itself well in quelling local disturbances. Reserves.

The ordinary reserve again proved inadequate and only in 5 districts could leave be granted up to the prescribed limit of 10 per cent. Increased pay has been sanctioned and it is hoped that men will now enlist more readily.

55. Sub-Inspectors were posted at the Noakhali and Gauhati stations and at the close of the year no investigation centres remained in charge of head constables. Missing goods cases fell from 1,526 to 480, of which 121 were reported to be criminal, as compared with 146 in the previous year. This large decrease was principally due to the fact that in the previous year a large number of ordinary railway claims cases were sent to the police as missing goods cases. Railway Police.

The train patrol system was suspended temporarily but resumed again during the year, though it is recognised that illiterate up-country constables without special supervision can hardly cope with work of this nature in a satisfactory manner.

Running train thefts and cases of stone throwing and obstruction decreased, but accidents rose from 143 to 171. Fortunately in only 47 cases were the results fatal.

River Police.

56. The Bengal river police continued to patrol the Megna, Surma and Kusiara rivers from their stations at Markuli and Madna, and the steam launch scout patrolled other waterways in Sylhet.

Rural Police.

57. In the three districts of the province in which the chaukidari system is in force, chaukidars were useful in reporting crime and vital statistics, but failed again to give much help in the prevention or detection of crime. The number of punishments fell from 42·2 to 35·3 per cent. of the force, but there was also a considerable fall in the number of rewards.

Proposals for the revision of the present system of rural police in connection with the circle system that has been introduced in some areas were under the consideration of the Local Administration.

Finance.

58. The net cost of the department rose from Rs. 23,24,281 in 1913 to Rs. 23,32,110 in 1914. The increase was mainly due to additional establishment and to the appointment of a senior Superintendent of Police in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Crime.

59. The number of cognizable cases increased by 702. Of those reported or referred to the police, 37·4 per cent. came to trial as compared with 39·7 in 1913, and the percentage of convictions also fell from 81·8 to 80·9 in the year under report.

Serious crime increased in the district of Sylhet, mainly under the heads of burglary and theft. This increase is attributed to scarcity of food-grains in the Habiganj subdivision as a result of high floods in 1913. The system of warning landowners in cases of apprehended riots was continued with success in both divisions.

Fifty-eight more members of the Kamargaon gang of river dakaits in Sylhet were registered under the Criminal Tribes Act during the year, and this action together with the patrol of the waterways by a police launch checked their depredations. Eight members of a wandering gang of Maharatta beggars represented themselves as German emissaries in the Kamrup district and robbed some villagers; five of them were convicted.

In the Sylhet and Sibsagar districts respectively a gang of Musahar and a gang of Lodha tea-garden coolies were also convicted of dakaity.

The number of cases remanded more than six times was high in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet and Goalpara, and there was still a tendency in the Kamrup district to grant adjournments on insufficient grounds.

Political crime.

60. The identity of the man who was killed in attempting to assassinate Mr. Gordon, Subdivisional Officer, Maulvi Bazar, in 1912 was established during the year. An examination of his finger prints showed that he was Jogendra Chakravarti of Diara police station, Barhatta, district Mymensingh.

A Maulvi named Kazimuddin of the Tippera district visited Sylhet and incited Muhammadans not to work for Hindus or to pay revenue to Government. He and five of his followers were arrested and bound down for one year.

As usual, several liberty leaflets and anonymous threatening letters were received during the year.

Miscellaneous.

61. Sanction was received for the appointment of a Superintendent of Police to be in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department and a Deputy Superintendent, an Inspector and 3 constables were also added to the force. Some cases of murder and coining and 34 insurance fraud cases were dealt with. A gang of coiners and one of Duna swindlers were successfully prosecuted in the Sylhet district.

The Finger Print Bureau received 1,346 search slips, and previous convictions were traced in 50 cases.

SECTION 4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

Staff.

62. The staff employed on criminal work in the plains portion of the province consisted of two Sessions Judges, one Additional Sessions Judge, eight District, sixty-nine Stipendiary, and twenty-eight Honorary Magistrates. Besides the above, a temporary Additional and Sessions Judge and a temporary Assistant Sessions Judge were also employed in the Assam Valley.

Magistrates' Courts.

63. The following statement gives the figures for the past three years of offences reported, cases accepted as true, and cases brought to trial with the ratio of complaints dismissed and of persons convicted:—

—	Offences reported.	Cases accepted as true.	Cases brought to trial.	Ratio of complaints dismissed.	Ratio of persons convicted.
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Per cent.	Per cent.
1914	44,819	28,516	19,746	35·6	41·2
1913	41,767	27,427	19,520	34·1	42·7
1912	39,174	24,837	17,422	35·8	44·6

Of the 31,587 persons whose cases were decided by Magistrates, 13,025 were convicted, 4,792 on summary and 8,233 on regular trial. Three hundred and twenty-six cases were committed to the Sessions and 19,339 were finally disposed of; 1,093 cases were pending at the end of the year. Of the cases disposed of, 27·4 per cent. were tried under summary procedure.

Fifty-nine thousand eight hundred and twenty witnesses were examined and, of these, 73 per cent. were discharged on the first day of the trial and 1,297, as against 858 in the preceding year, were detained for more than three days.

At the close of the year 2,303 persons were awaiting trial and 112 were in custody.

Magistrates sentenced 3,385 persons to imprisonment, 9,295 to fine, 106 to whipping and ordered 269 persons to fulfil contracts under Act XIII of 1859. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 1,32,000, of which Rs. 1,22,006 were realized and Rs. 22,913 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Bonds for keeping the peace were taken from 427 persons and 260 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, 154 of whom were sentenced to undergo imprisonment in default. In 109 cases complainants were found to have brought frivolous or vexatious charges and were ordered to pay compensation to the accused.

Courts of Session.

64. Two hundred and twenty-four cases were disposed of, involving 462 persons, of whom 139 were tried by jury, and 202 with the aid of assessors. Three hundred and thirty-two persons were convicted, 118 were discharged or acquitted, and in the case of 12 reference was made to the High Court. Five persons were sentenced to death. On reference to the High Court 3 of these were transported for life and 2 suffered the extreme penalty.

Twenty persons were sentenced to transportation for life and 2 to transportation for a term of years, 300 to rigorous imprisonment, 4 to simple imprisonment, 1 to whipping and 25 to fine. The Judge disagreed with the verdict of the jury in the cases of 30 persons. Reference was made to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure with regard to 7 persons, 4 of whom were then convicted while the cases of 3 were still pending at the close of the year.

In trials with the aid of assessors the Judge concurred with both assessors in 148 instances, concurred with one assessor in 24, and disagreed with both in 20.

The number of witnesses examined was 1,973, of whom 400 or 20·2 per cent. were detained for more than three days. The average duration of cases in Sessions Courts was 45·8 days.

Appellate Jurisdiction, the High Court.

65. The High Court disposed of 89 appeals during the year. The sentences passed in the Sessions Courts were upheld in 81 cases, reversed in 1 and varied in 7. Six appeals remained for disposal at the end of the year.

Sessions Courts.

66. Six hundred and forty-one appeals, involving 1,282 persons, were disposed of with the result that the original sentences were confirmed in 60·5 per cent., modified in 19·5 per cent. and reversed in 18·9 per cent. of the cases. New trials were ordered in the cases of 8 persons, and in the case of 4 persons the proceedings were quashed.

Magistrates. 67. District Magistrates disposed of the appeals of 677 persons, dismissing the appeal in 69·7 per cent. of the cases, modifying the original sentence in 11·3 per cent., and reversing it in 18·4 per cent. New trials were ordered in the case of 3 persons.

Revision. 68. Applications for revision of orders passed by lower Courts were decided in 175 cases by the High Court, in 378 cases by the Court of Session and in 262 cases by District Magistrates.

Receipts and charges. 69. The charges incurred in Criminal Courts in Assam amounted to Rs. 4,19,395 and the receipts to Rs. 2,59,499, exceeding by Rs. 42,903 and Rs. 39,509, respectively, the figures of the preceding year.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

70. One thousand and seventy-three cases, involving 1,438 persons, were brought to trial. Of these persons, 1,135 were convicted, 303 were acquitted or discharged, 6 died, escaped or were transferred and 24 remained under trial at the end of the year. One person was sentenced to death and two to transportation for life. Fifty-four persons appealed against the sentences or orders of lower Courts. In seven cases the original order was modified and in seven cases the order was reversed. No case remained pending at the close of the year.

SECTION 5.—JAILS.

[*See* Report on Jail Administration in the Province of Assam for the year 1914; Statistics of British India, Part VI.]

General. 71. The number of jails and sub-jails remained the same as in the previous year.

Population. 72. The year opened with 1,982 prisoners of all classes in confinement against 1,898 in the previous year. The number of admissions and discharges rose from 9,523 and 9,439 in 1913 to 10,251 and 10,111, respectively, in 1914, and the number of prisoners at the close of the year was 2,122 or 140 more than in the previous year. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes rose from 1,917·91 in 1913 to 2,021·37 in 1914.

Of the convicts admitted, ·47 per cent. were Christians, 39·47 per cent. were Muhammadans, 52·43 per cent. were Hindus and Sikhs, ·10 per cent. were Buddhists and Jains and 7·53 per cent. belonged to other classes.

Juvenile, female and literate offenders. 73. Ten or ·25 per cent. of the convicts admitted were juvenile offenders (9 boys and 1 girl) and 150 were women. The percentage of literate convicts was 4·06.

Under-trial prisoners. 74. The daily average number of under-trial prisoners rose from 216·17 in 1913 to 220·22 in 1914, and the average period of detention in Magistrates' cases was 14·12 days against 14·07 in 1913. In 18 cases prisoners were detained for over 3 months, 3 of these cases occurring at Gauhati and 3 at Sunamganj.

Civil prisoners. 75. Eighty-seven civil prisoners were received during the year under report against 61 in the preceding year.

Discipline. 76. The number of escapes fell from 14 in 1913 to 10 in 1914, three of the latter being from inside and seven from outside the jails. In 13 cases convicts were punished by the Criminal Courts for offences committed within the jails and 2,131 minor and 759 major punishments were inflicted by Superintendents of Jails.

Health. 77. The daily average number of sick increased from 64·68 to 86·29 and the death-rate rose from 40·67 to 43·53 per mille.

The district jails at Sylhet and Tezpur and the sub-jail at Habiganj were responsible for the increase in the number of deaths during the year, 33 deaths occurring in the Sylhet jail against 17 in 1913, 17 in the Tezpur jail as against 7 and 6 in the Habiganj sub-jail as against nil. Except for the jail at Shillong and the sub-jail at Sibsagar, where the number of deaths was the same during the last two years, all other jails and sub-jails showed an improvement in the health of the inmates. The high mortality in the district jails of Sylhet and Tezpur was partly due to overcrowding, partly to the ravages of dysentery and partly to the large percentage of prisoners admitted in indifferent or bad health. To relieve overcrowding, temporary accommodation is being provided wherever it is required, until permanent additions can be made. Provision has been made for the improvement of the kitchens and hospitals at certain jails. The Inspector General of Prisons has issued instructions on the subject of the prisoners' health with special reference to dysentery, as of the 88 deaths that occurred during the year dysentery was responsible for 33. Special enquiries have been made regarding the sufficiency and suitability of the rations, and orders have

been issued that if any improvement can be effected in this respect immediate proposals should be submitted. The Chief Commissioner trusts that these measures will reduce considerably the rate of mortality.

78. An average of 683·80 prisoners or 38·80 per cent. were employed on manufactures and 110·72 or 6·28 per cent. on extramural work. The cash earnings of the year amounted to Rs. 42,116 against Rs. 11,561 in 1913, showing an increase of Rs. 30,555 which was due mainly to unusually high expenditure on the purchase of raw materials in 1913, the proceeds of the manufactured articles resulting therefrom being realised largely in 1914. The gross profits in the Manufacture Department amounted to Rs. 51,041 against Rs. 44,005 in 1913. Employment.

79. Expenditure on guarding and maintaining the prisoners, including the cost of buildings and repairs paid from the contingent grant of the Department, rose from Rs. 1,87,750 to Rs. 2,30,923, and the cost per head of average strength rose from Rs. 94-14 in 1913 to Rs. 114-4 in 1914. The net cost of the Department was Rs. 1,81,716 against Rs. 1,65,068 and the net cost per head of average strength was Rs. 89-15 against Rs. 86-1 in 1913. Finance.

SECTION 6.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

80. The Civil Judicial staff of the Province consisted of thirty-two Munsifs, two District, one Additional District and nine Subordinate Judges. Of these, two Subordinate Judges and ten Munsifs employed in the district of Sylhet were members of the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service, and the remainder were Executive Officers vested with Judicial powers. The temporary staff employed consisted of two Munsifs, an Additional District Judge and a Subordinate Judge. Staff.

81. The number of original suits instituted was 40,826, a decrease of 313 on the figures of the previous year, but the number of suits for disposal rose from 51,656 to 52,853. Of these, 40,652 were disposed of during the year, showing a slight increase over the disposals of 1913. There was an improvement in disposals in the Surma Valley, especially in Cachar, where they increased by 462, but in the Assam Valley there was a decrease of 344. Twelve thousand two hundred and twenty cases were pending at the end of the year and, of these, 419 had been pending for more than a year, as against 233 in 1913. Of the suits instituted, 28,828 were for money or moveables and 7,432 for rent: title and other suits numbered 4,566. There was an increase in the duration of contested suits tried under the ordinary procedure by District Judges and Munsifs, but a slight decrease in the Courts of Subordinate Judges. 61·6 per cent. of suits decided resulted in favour of the plaintiff, 29·5 per cent. in favour of the defendants and the rest were compromised. Suits.

82. Of the total number of applications for execution on the files, 21,858 were disposed of. The results were far from gratifying to the successful litigants, as complete satisfaction was only obtained in 2,762 cases and partial satisfaction in 3,685 cases, Rs. 5,84,277 being realized. In no less than 70·5 per cent. of the cases the proceedings were entirely infructuous. Execution Proceedings.

83. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted during the year was 4,024. Of these, 3,954 were disposed of and 897 were left pending. Miscellaneous.

Of non-judicial cases, mainly for deposit of rent, institutions numbered 812 and disposals 865.

84. There were 269 appeals from decrees before the High Court. Of these, 138 were decided, the decree of the lower Court being reversed in 23 and confirmed in 97 cases. Eighteen cases were remanded to the lower Courts. Appeals: (*a*) in the High Court.

85. The number of appeals before Civil Courts was 2,205, of which 1,246 were disposed of, leaving 974 appeals pending at the close of the year. Of the pending appeals, 90 were pending for over a year, as compared with 131 in 1913. (*b*) in Courts subordinate to the High Court.

The decisions of the lower Courts were affirmed in 71·1 per cent., modified in 7·5 per cent. and reversed in 14·2 per cent. of the appeals heard.

86. Receipts rose from Rs. 6,20,880 to Rs. 6,94,511 and the charges from Rs. 2,86,767 to Rs. 3,08,123, the surplus of receipts over charges increasing from Rs. 3,34,113 to Rs. 3,86,388. Receipts and Charges.

87. In the hill districts 1,662 suits, of an aggregate value of Rs. 1,76,500, were instituted. The number of suits for disposal was 1,926 and, of these, 156 were transferred, 1,614 decided and 156 left pending. Of 45 appeals before the Courts, 41 were decided. In 18 cases the order of the lower Court was confirmed, in 9 it was reversed and in 4 modified. Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

SECTION 7.—REGISTRATION.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in Assam for the year 1914.]

Re-organisation.

88. The ministerial establishment was re-organised and, with effect from March 1914, clerks in rural offices have been paid from Rs. 25 to Rs. 40, and in Sadr offices from Rs. 30 to Rs. 60 per mensem. The pay of permanent muharrirs has also been raised to Rs. 20 per mensem.

An experimental office was opened at Thakurbari in Sylhet and, since the close of the year, sanction has been accorded to the opening of an office at Sukhair in the Sunamganj subdivision. The increase in the volume of registration in the Assam Valley led to the conversion of the *ex-officio* into whole-time sub-registry offices at Dhubri and Jorhat.

Documents.

89. The number of documents registered rose from 80,076 to 88,109, the district of Sylhet contributing 7,260 towards the increase of 8,033.

Receipts and expenditure.

90. Receipts rose from Rs. 1,00,958 to Rs. 1,09,550, and expenditure from Rs. 57,868 to Rs. 62,160. The increase in expenditure is due to the more liberal payment of clerks and the addition to the number of whole-time offices.

Muhammadan Marriage and Divorce Registration Act.

91. The number of ceremonies registered fell from 7,016 to 6,967. This slight decrease compares unfavourably with the increase of 1,445 in the previous year and is attributed to the collapse of the jute market, the rise in price of food-stuffs and the closure for 4½ months of an office in the Sylhet district.

One meeting of the Permanent Committee for the supervision of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Qazis was held during the year. The total income of these registrars rose from Rs. 10,584-2-0 to Rs. 10,603-2-0.

Indian Companies Act.

92. One company limited by guarantee was registered during the year, and applications were made for the registration of four companies limited by shares, but as the provisions of the law were not complied with, the companies could not be incorporated. Four companies went into voluntary liquidation, three were dealt with as defunct under section 247 of the Act and notices under the same section have been published in six other cases. At the close of the year 64 companies limited by shares were at work with a total paid-up capital of Rs. 18,63,381 as compared with 71 companies and a paid-up capital of Rs. 16, 91,567 at the close of the previous year.

Provident Insurance Societies Act.

93. Companies were asked to prepare their rules under the Provident Insurance Societies Act, V of 1912, within 6 months from the 18th September. They failed to do so and were given 60 days more within which to prepare their rules and were also warned that after the further period, if they failed to comply with the provision of the law, they would be prohibited from receiving any premia or contributions. No prosecutions were instituted under the Act, but the advisability of such action in one or two cases is being considered.

SECTION 8.—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

(*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipalities in Assam during the year 1914-15; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.)

Constitution.

94. The Maulvi Bazar Union, which was constituted late in the year 1913-14, came into active existence from the beginning of 1914-1915. Since the close of the year Act III (B.C.) of 1884 has been introduced into the Nowgong Municipality instead of Act V (B.C.) of 1876, and two Unions, *viz.*, one at Mangaldai and another at North Lakhimpur, have been constituted under Act V (B.C.) of 1876. Part X of Act III(B.C.) of 1884 was extended to the Habiganj Municipality, Part IX of the Act to the Sunamganj Municipality, the provisions of certain sections of Part VI to the Habiganj and Jorhat Municipalities, Act IV(B.C.) of 1873 to the Maulvi Bazar and Nazira Unions, and Act V of 1861, Act IV(B.C.) of 1873, Act I (B.C.) of 1869, Act XIII of 1880 and Act V (B.C.) of 1880 to the Nowgong Municipality. Orders were issued, under section 346 of Act III (B.C.) of 1884 and under section 295 of Act V(B.C.) of 1876, to certain Municipalities to provide for the registration of births and deaths within their jurisdictions in accordance with the provisions of Act IV(B.C.) of 1873 or any other similar Act for the time being in force. The boundaries of the Tezpur Municipality were revised, certain amendments were made to the election rules of all Municipalities, and additional bye-laws framed by the Jorhat Municipality were confirmed. Two places within the Barpeta Municipality were declared bazars under section 300 of Act V(B.C.) of 1876. The number of meetings held by Municipal bodies rose to 241, of which 5 failed for want of a quorum, but the average percentage of attendance fell from 62·11 to 61·07.

Taxation.

95. General or partial revisions of assessment were made in seven Municipalities, but resulted in substantial increase of income only at Gauhati, Silchar and Barpeta. The number of rate-payers rose from 21,360 to 22,152. The average incidence of taxation per head of population rose slightly from Re. 1-12-2 to Re. 1-12-8.

Income.

96. Contributions from Government rose from Rs. 1,93,334 to Rs. 3,88,013 and receipts from local sources from Rs. 3,07,794 to Rs. 3,20,652.

Expenditure.

97. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,53,468. Expenditure on the ordinary work of municipal administration, excluding repayments of loans, advances, deposits, etc., amounted to Rs. 5,33,967 which was Rs. 23,376 more than in the previous year.

Water-supply.

98. Capital outlay and maintenance charges on account of water-supply amounted to Rs. 39,480 and Rs. 34,988, respectively. The water-supply of the Gauhati Municipality and the Golaghat Union was improved. Piped water-supply schemes were sanctioned for Sylhet, Tezpur and Dhubri, and large grants were made by Government towards their execution. The Dhubri, Silchar and Sylhet schemes are in progress. A grant of Rs. 4,100 was made to the Nazira Union for constructing two tanks at a cost of Rs. 8,200. The Dibrugarh water-supply scheme has had to be postponed as it has been found impossible to finance it. Water-supply schemes for Goalpara and Mangaldai are being considered.

Public Works.

99. The expenditure rose from Rs. 1,36,827 to Rs. 1,39,044. Most of the money was spent on the improvement of communications in Municipal areas.

Conservancy and drainage.

100. The expenditure on conservancy rose from Rs. 1,33,194 to Rs. 1,44,365. Trained Sanitary Inspectors, paid by Government, were appointed in ten Municipalities during the year. A grant of Rs. 16,200 was made for the improvement of conservancy at Sylhet; and since the close of the year a scheme for the reorganisation of the conservancy system of the Goalpara Municipality has been prepared and the problem of financing it is being considered. The capital and maintenance charges on drainage were Rs. 4,579 and Rs. 10,655 against Rs. 4,302 and Rs. 8,978, respectively, in the preceding year. Minor improvements were effected in several Municipalities. Since the close of the year a drainage scheme for the town of Jorhat has been administratively approved, and no Government assistance being possible, it has been suggested that the Municipality should finance it by increasing the rates, which are at present very low.

Financial position.

101. The aggregate closing balances amounted to Rs. 4,29,226 or Rs. 1,77,032 in excess of those of the preceding year, and the actual balance, excluding the value of uncashed cheques, rose from Rs. 2,47,455 to Rs. 4,22,552. At the close of the year three Municipalities had outstanding loans to meet, but the liabilities were not heavy, and on the whole the financial position of the Municipalities was sound.

Audit.

102. There was some improvement in accounting, but the necessity for the strict observance of the instructions given in audit notes was still not fully appreciated. A case of embezzlement occurred in the Dibrugarh Municipality. One of the culprits, the tax-collector, was convicted and sentenced to 21 months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,200, and two other persons, the two collecting sarkars, are awaiting their trial. Since the close of the year a set of simplified account rules has been prescribed for small towns, and has been introduced in the Unions at Nazira and Mangaldai.

SECTION 9.—LOCAL BOARD.

[*See* Resolution on the working of Local Boards in Assam during 1914-15; Statistics of British India, Part VIII.]

Local Self-Government Act.

103. The Assam Local Self-Government Bill passed through the Legislative Council of the Chief Commissioner during the year under report. It has since received the assent of the Governor General in Council and become law. It is proposed to bring the Act into force from the 1st January 1916.

Composition of Local Boards and meetings.

104. The composition of the Boards, which are 19 in number, remained the same as in the previous year. The average percentage of attendance fell from 62·42 to 58·25.

Finance.

105. The aggregate opening balance of the Boards was Rs. 8,08,358; their receipts amounted to Rs. 27,73,474 and their expenditure to Rs. 28,98,933, the balance at the close of the year being Rs. 6,82,899. The decrease of receipts from Rs. 32,10,157 to Rs. 27,73,474 was due to the abnormally large contributions made by Government during the previous year. Government contributions still formed 60·63 per cent. of the total income of the Boards.

PROTECTION.

The work of the year.

(a) Education.

106. The expenditure on education continued to increase and its percentage on the total income of the Boards rose from 20·16 in the previous year to 28·76. The specially marked increase in the educational expenditure of the Boards during the last three years is due to the liberal grants made from the special Imperial assignments. The number of lower primary schools rose from 3,042 to 3,150, the increase having occurred mostly in the Assam Valley. The Surma Valley Boards, however, spent Rs. 33,684 more on education from their own resources than in the previous year. Two middle English schools were provincialised, one of them being at the same time raised to the status of a high school.

(b) Medical.

107. The number of dispensaries maintained or aided by Local Boards rose from 123 to 124 and the total expenditure on medical and sanitation, exclusive of water-supply, from Rs. 2,48,452 to Rs. 2,77,114. The percentage of their ordinary income expended by the different Boards on medical charity and sanitation, exclusive of Government grants specifically made for the purpose, varied from 4·43 to 22·65. Nine lady doctors and fourteen midwives and *dhais* were employed by the Boards. Effect was given to a scheme for a joint graded service of local doctors on a time scale of pay for the five Local Boards in the Sylhet district.

(c) Village authorities.

108. Grants were made to selected villages during the previous two years, with the object of interesting people in the improvement of the sanitary conditions of their surroundings. The experiments proved encouraging, and in the year under report the organisation of a number of village authorities was taken up. A few circles were formed in each valley and all preliminary arrangements were made. It was, however, not found possible to start work during the year, as experienced Sub-Deputy Collectors could not be spared to take charge of the circles. All the circles have since been manned and it is hoped that they will soon be in full working order.

(d) Water-supply.

109. Work on the water-supply programmes financed by Government in 1913-14 continued during the year and in the case of most of the Boards remained unfinished at its close. A grant of Rs. 20,000 was made to the Nowgong Local Board for the improvement of the water-supply in the Kallang river area. The five years' scheme of water-supply referred to in the last report matured during the year and special grants have since been made to Local Boards for the commencement of the first year's work.

(e) Communications.

110. The year was the last of the three years contemplated for the completion of the communication programmes financed from the special Government grants of fifteen and ten lakhs made to Local Boards in 1912 and 1913. A sum of Rs. 8,10,028 was placed at the disposal of the Boards during the year and the small balance of the promised grants has since been paid. The programmes, which were partly carried out by the Public Works Department and partly by the Boards' own agency, could not in all cases be completed within the time specified ; but the work accomplished was satisfactory. With the special grants referred to, 348 miles of existing roads were improved, and 41 miles metalled. Eighty miles of new roads, 261 permanent and 48 semi-permanent bridges, 255 culverts and 6 inspection bungalows were constructed. During the same three years, the Boards, from their own funds, improved or metalled 280 miles of existing roads and constructed 115 miles of new roads, 63 permanent bridges, 98 semi-permanent bridges, and 130 culverts. The communications in the jurisdictions of all the Local Boards have thus been very materially improved.

(f) Veterinary.

111. The Boards' Veterinary charges slightly decreased during the year. Of the 19 Local Boards, 13 employed two Veterinary Assistants each, and the others would have been glad to employ second Veterinary Assistants had sufficient qualified candidates been forthcoming. The rate of pay of Veterinary Assistants has recently been increased and it is hoped that the difficulty of securing qualified candidates will gradually diminish.

The North Sylhet Local Board held its annual cattle show ; but as very little interest was taken in it by the people, the Chairman had to advise the Board to discontinue it.

(g) General.

112. The grants made by Government kept the Boards hard at work. The policy of subsidising the Boards so as to enable them to improve communications and water-supply in their several jurisdictions and at the same time allowing them considerable latitude in the selection of schemes has caused more interest to be taken by the public and by the members of the Boards in the works in progress.

SECTION 10.—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

MILITARY (VOLUNTEERS).

113. The undermentioned Volunteer Corps were in existence during 1914-15 :—

(1) Surma Valley Light Horse.

(2) Assam Valley Light Horse.

The total number of Volunteers was :—

	On 1st April 1914.	On 1st April 1915.
Officers	76	88
Rank and file	898	1,298

Corps.	Officers (including staff and Supernumerary Officers).	Rank and file.	Reservists.	
			Officers.	Rank and file.
1	2	3	4	5
Surma Valley Light Horse ...	41	401	*Nil*	24
Assam Valley Light Horse ...	40	695	7	178
Total	81	1,096	7	202

114. The very satisfactory increase in membership by 54 per cent. and 24 per cent. in the Assam Valley Light Horse and the Surma Valley Light Horse, respectively, was mainly due to the increased interest in volunteering induced by the war.

115. The number of members of the Volunteer Corps who joined the regular Army and the Indian Army Reserve of Officers during 1914-15 is noted below :—

Corps.	Regular Army.	Indian Army Reservee of Officers.
1	2	3
Surma Valley Light Horse	3	29
Assam Valley Light Horse	11	26
Total	14	55

SECTION 11.—MARINE.

Nil.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

[*See* Report of the Agricultural Department, Assam, for the year ending 30th June 1915.]

Staff.

116. There was an increase of one Agricultural Supervisor, three Agricultural Inspectors and four demonstrators in the staff. Proposals were submitted to the Secretary of State for the appointment of a Second Deputy Director of Agriculture, and were sanctioned after the close of the year. Rai B. C. Basu Bahadur was retained on special duty under the Department, but Mr. Birt, Deputy Director of Agriculture, joined the Indian Army Reserve of officers in May 1915, making over his work to Mr. Meggitt, the Agricultural Chemist. The Subordinate staff consisted of 21 officers as against 18 in the preceding year. Sanction was accorded to the annual appointment of four apprentices at each of the two farms at Jorhat and Karimganj in place of two and the number of agricultural scholarships open to natives of the province at Sabour was raised from one to four.

Experiments.

117. Experiments which were continued at Jorhat on the effect of different manures showed that wood-ashes were of special value to *rabi* crops. At the Karimganj Farm experiments in the line breeding of rice, were tried, but the floods of June and July 1915 destroyed practically the whole results of the experiment. The good results of the Shillong Farm were illustrated by the fact that 1,000 maunds of potatoes grown there were sold as seed. Heavy rain in 1915 proved very unfavourable to the experiment in the Kamrup Sugarcane Farm and difficulties in obtaining labour and the late arrival of the steam tackle delayed the planting of the cane. The Shillong Fruit Garden suffered from hail; but over 16 acres had, by the end of the year, been planted with trees and promised well.

Demonstrations.

118. Demonstrations were carried out to show the substantial profit to be obtained from the use of flour phosphate and bonemeal. Seventy thousand sets of improved varieties of sugarcane were distributed in the Assam Valley and the advantages of three-roller iron-crushing mills were demonstrated at six centres in Kamrup with the result that 13 mills were sold. Demonstrations in potato cultivation were carried on in Sylhet, the Lushai and the Naga Hills and the North-East Frontier and efforts were made to extend terrace cultivation in areas now occupied by *jhumiyas*.

Live stock.

119. There was a great demand for cows bred at the Upper Shillong Farm, but the scheme for improving live stock in the plains by the introduction of bulls from Manipur and Burma had to be postponed for financial reasons. Sheep-breeding proved a failure at Shillong, but the poultry farm in the Lushai Hills did well.

Miscellaneous.

120. Six leaflets and bulletins were issued during the year. The Weaving Master's efforts were much appreciated and improved methods and implements gained in popularity.

SECTION 2.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

[*See* Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Assam for the year ending the 31st March 1915; Statistics of British India, Part II.]

Strength.

121. During the year the number of societies rose from 249 with 13,629 members to 301 with 16,022 members. The working capital increased from Rs. 6,84,805 to Rs. 8,07,515. There was no change in the number of central banks and unions, but the number of banking unions increased from 4 to 5, of agricultural societies from 224 to 271 and of non-agricultural societies from 16 to 20. The number of members increased in all cases.

Central Banks and Unions.

122. The total working capital of central banks, banking unions and unions amounted to Rs. 1,99,196 and their total profits to Rs. 7,083. The Pioneer Central Bank at Shillong issued loans only to societies, whereas loans to individual members as well as to societies were issued by the Silchar Central Bank. There were five banking unions, of which one at Maulvi Bazar was formed late in the year. The others did useful work. The old union at Gauripur, the working of which last year was unsatisfactory, has not shown any improvement. The two supervising unions at Palasbari in Kamrup and at Salchapra in Cachar had 30 and 20 societies affiliated to them respectively.

Agricultural Societies.

123. The total working capital of agricultural societies rose from Rs. 2,89,612 to Rs. 3,47,241. Members' deposits have remained practically stationary, being Rs. 79,962 as against Rs. 79,689 last year. The rate of interest on deposits is 6¼ per cent. The total sum issued in loans was Rs. 1,70,431, the average per member being Rs. 12-8-0. The rate of interest varied from 12½ per cent. to 18¾ per cent. per annum. All the profits of the agricultural societies, amounting to Rs. 18,111, were carried to the reserve funds.

Non-agricultural Societies.

124. The working capital increased from Rs. 2,23,776 to Rs. 2,61,078. The deposits of members showed an increase from Rs. 82,129 to Rs. 97,982 and those of non-members from Rs. 59,182 to Rs. 73,574. The rate of interest on current deposits varied from 4 to 4½ per cent. and on fixed deposits from 5 to 9 per cent. The societies issued Rs. 1,05,337 in 532 loans to their members. The average amount of loan per member was Rs. 58. On the whole, the working of the societies was satisfactory.

Reserve funds.

125. The reserve funds of central banks and unions rose from Rs. 6,125 to Rs. 7,348 and those of agricultural and non-agricultural societies from Rs. 52,954 to Rs. 65,236. These figures show that in spite of the cautious policy which perforce had to be adopted, there was a real increase in the solid prosperity of the societies.

General.

126. The year under report has shown decided progress and would have shown more but for the caution which had to be exercised in registering new societies owing to the inadequacy of the supervising staff. The general apathy of the public is diminishing, as the utility of the movement is becoming better known and appreciated.

SECTION 3.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

[*See* Report on Season and Crops of Assam for the year ending 31st March 1915; Agricultural Statistics of British India, Volume I, Appendix A.]

Weather.

127. During the year the Spring rains were, as a whole, deficient. The rainfall was much below the average throughout the Brahmaputra Valley, except in Nowgong where it was in excess. In the Northern Hills, taken as a whole, it was a little above the average, in the Surma Valley it was normal and in the Eastern Hills it was above the average. From June to September and from October to November there was much less rain than usual. In the plains the winter rains were normal, while in the hills they were above the average. For the whole year the rainfall of the Province was much below the average, the only division in which it was normal being that of the Eastern Hills. Except as regards sugarcane in the Brahmaputra Valley and spring rice in Sylhet, the weather was not generally favourable. Shortage of rain in the spring affected adversely the growth of autumn and winter rice, and in October retarded to a certain extent the growth of transplanted rice and oilseed. In July the jute crop suffered severely from lack of rain, but conditions improved somewhat in August. In the Brahmaputra Valley, except in the district of Goalpara, conditions were generally good for sugarcane but less so in the Surma Valley. The rape and mustard crops were considerably affected by drought in December and January.

Crops.

128. Rice is the most important crop grown in the Province. It covered an area of 4,750,988 acres or 74 per cent. of the total cropped area, and showed a decrease of 4,537 acres as compared with the preceding year. The decrease was mainly due to unfavourable weather and shortage of rain.

Maize, oilseeds, jute and sugarcane showed a small increase in area while cotton showed a small decrease owing to unfavourable weather. Jute is chiefly grown in the Goalpara district and the Habiganj subdivision. Cultivation of this crop continued to expand in Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong. The area under crops grown for silk showed a small increase.

Outturn and prices.

129. The outturn per acre of the spring rice crop was normal. Autumn and winter rice showed outturns of 79 and 86 per cent. of the normal respectively, against 76 and 83 per cent. of the preceding year. The better outturn was attributed to the absence of loss from floods. On the basis of these estimates, the total outturn of rice comes to 1,458,980 tons which was about 9 per cent. more than that of the preceding year.

The outturn of jute was 83 per cent. of the normal against 79 per cent. in the preceding year, an actual increase of 79,127 bales. Increase of cultivated area and absence of floods were the chief contributary causes. The outturn of rape fell from 91 per cent. to 85 per cent. and that of sugarcane from 99 per cent. to 95 per cent. owing to unfavourable weather.

The average price of pulse fell slightly and that of mustard showed a moderate rise as compared with the preceding year. While *gur* showed a very slight tendency to fall, there were considerable fluctuations.

General. 130. The year was on the whole not a bad one for the cultivators. As regards weather, conditions might have been considerably better, but cultivators benefited by the high prices which ruled for paddy. Jute, however, fell in price.

SECTION 4.—FORESTS.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Assam for 1914-15, and Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Area and Settlement. 131. The total area of the reserved forests at the close of the year was 4,523 square miles, 146 square miles having been added during the year. The area of the unclassed State forests which is only another name for Government waste land decreased from 18,401 to 18,218 square miles owing to the extension of cultivation and reservation. The Orang reserve in the Darrang Division and the Kaki reserve in the Nowgong Division, which cover between them an area of 102 square miles, were finally gazetted, but these areas were primarily reserved in the interests of game preservation. In the Eastern Circle the two principal additions were the Longlai-Singla forest and the forest in the Raghunandan Hills. The forests on the northern ranges of the Khasi Hills were examined and it was definitely established that little fresh forest in that area awaits exploitation. An Imperial Forest Officer was deputed to examine the forests in the Lushai Hills and the possibilities of the Naga Hills and North Cachar Hills were under consideration.

Working plans. 132. No new working plans were introduced, but the Inspector General of Forests after a tour of inspection recommended the abandonment of the Nambor working plan, and suggested amendments and alterations in the Holangapar and Jokai plans. The prescriptions of the existing working plans were as far as possible carried out, but the lack of demand due largely to the war restricted the amount of felling which could profitably be undertaken.

Surveys were carried out of the Upper Dehing and the proposed Behali and Gohpur reserves and of 417 square miles of forest in the Sibsagar Division.

Communications and buildings. 133. The Goalpara forest tramway worked at a profit: the total expenditure in connection with the introduction of steam traction amounted to Rs. 51,555 and a net profit of Rs. 8,632 was obtained. Two hundred and one miles of new roads and paths were constructed at a cost of Rs. 39,961. A sum of Rs. 54,954 was spent on the construction of new rest houses and subordinates' quarters. The expenditure on repairs of buildings amounted to Rs. 18,158, while Rs. 36,976 were spent on repairing roads and bridges, etc.

Forest offences and protection. 134. The number of cases reported during the year increased from 656 to 854, of which 271 were taken to court against 162 in the previous year. There were 188 convictions and 49 acquittals.

Special fire protection was attempted over an area of 1,147 square miles: 14 square miles of forests were burned by fire during the year.

Sylviculture. 135. An enquiry into the *sâl* forests of Jalpaiguri, Buxa Duars and Goalpara was carried out by Mr. Troup, the Sylviculturist to the Forest Research Institute, with the result that present methods of treatment were condemned. Briefly described the new policy proposed is a system of clear felling followed by cultivation to be succeeded by artificial regeneration in the form of direct sowing. These proposals were supported by the Inspector General of Forests.

Simul plantations proved successful. Seeds sown in the rice fields of *Jhumias* on *Chapri* lands did extremely well.

The Charduar rubber plantation was extended by 50 acres, but owing to the low price of rubber no tapping was done. Attempts were made to utilise the grasses and reeds of Assam for the manufacture of paper pulp, and, though a consignment of *nal* grass was sent to the Titaghur Paper Mills, it was unfavourably reported on. The poor results obtained were possibly due to the grass having been cut at the wrong time of the year.

Financial results. 136. From the financial point of view the results of the year were far from satisfactory. Expenditure amounted to Rs. 9,37,432, receipts to Rs. 9,32,295, and there was a deficit of Rs. 5,137. This deficit occurred in the Western Circle, where expenditure exceeded receipts by Rs. 41,000. These unsatisfactory results were mainly due to the fall in the price of jute, which reacted on the purchasing power of the population of East Bengal, amongst whom there is normally a large demand for timber from Assam.

137. The tax on lac was abolished, as it was difficult to collect, uneven in incidence and had no justification for its imposition. An area of 24 square miles in the neighbourhood of the Shillong-Gauhati road was reserved for the growth of the Khasi pine in the hope of the eventual development of a resin industry. Useful experiments were conducted in the treatment of timber with preservatives. The difficult question of grazing continued to engage the attention of the Chief Commissioner, and an officer of the Indian Civil Service was placed on special duty during the year to examine the whole subject. Elephant hunting was decidedly successful, 195 animals being captured in the Garo Hills and Sibsagar, the only two districts in which operations were in progress. General.

SECTION 5.—MANUFACTURE AND MINES.

138. The number of gardens increased from 752 to 762 and the acreage under tea from 367,817 to 376,048 acres. About 93 per cent. of the area under tea was plucked and yielded 208,227,104 lbs. of manufactured tea. This represents an increase of 4·25 per cent. on the outturn of the previous year, though the outturn of green tea fell again by over 50 per cent. to 214,523 lbs. The permanent labour force increased by 15,420 and the temporary decreased by 3,022 persons. Tea.

139. Weather conditions were favourable on the whole, but the season closed early in Cachar, Sylhet, Nowgong and Lakhimpur, owing to deficiency of rain towards the end of the year. Weather.

140. Prices in London were favourable, Surma Valley tea advancing 10·56 per cent. and Assam Valley tea 5·34 per cent. over the averages of the previous year, but in Calcutta, while Surma Valley prices remained at the same level, those for the Assam Valley fell 4 per cent. In this connection it may be noted that, inspite of a fall in export to foreign countries owing to the war, there was a considerable increase in the demand from the United Kingdom and total exports were higher than in the previous year. The demand for tea seed was not large, but exports rose from 7,671 to 11,575 maunds. Prices.

141. No new mining leases or prospecting licenses were issued during the year, but in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills licenses to prospect for gold, tin, wolfram and other metals and for oil were renewed. Minerals.

The revenue derived from royalties on coal and oil was Rs. 62,681 against Rs. 61,854 in the year 1913-14. The output of coal increased from 272,833 tons to 303,581 tons, while that of oil slightly decreased from 4,688,628 gallons to 4,688,547 gallons.

In the Naga Hills the Nazira Coal Company commenced working the Borjan Coal Mine and extracted 778 tons of coal.

In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills 492 tons of coal were raised against 498 tons in the previous year and the output of limestone quarried increased from 80,412 to 108,287 tons. In Manipur 144 tons of limestone were won and 79 tons in the Sadiya tract.

SECTION 6.—FACTORIES.

142. There were 15 factories at work in the province during the year. They were classified as follows :— Report.

Factories.	Districts.	Number.
Printing presses ...	... Khasi and Jaintia Hills	2
Railway workshops...	... Sibsagar, Nowgong and Lakhimpur ...	3
Colliery workshop ...	... Lakhimpur	1
Petroleum refinery ...	... Ditto	1
Pottery ...	... Ditto	1
Saw Mills ...	... Cachar, Sylhet, Darrang and Lakhimpur	7
	Total	15

The total average daily number of operatives employed in the province decreased from 2,822 to 2,714. Of these 2,087 were adult males, 447 adult females and 180 children against 2,215, 414 and 193, respectively, in the preceding year. Ten of the factories only were inspected, as the Inspector contracted fever and had to curtail his tour. No adverse comments were made by the Inspector on the factories inspected by him, and no prosecutions were instituted during the year. The number of accidents rose from 9 to 11, of which 7 were minor, 3 serious and 1 fatal.

SECTION 7—MARITIME TRADE.

Nil.

SECTION 8.—RAIL AND RIVER-BORNE TRADE.

General. 143. Climatic conditions were only moderately favourable, but, though there was some decrease in outturn as compared with the previous year in the case of oil seeds and sugarcane, there was an increase in that of rice, tea and jute. Imports rose from 96,58,996 maunds in 1913-14 to 1,01,41,830½ maunds valued at Rs. 8,65,63,037; and exports from 1,27,78,352 to 1,32,16,374 maunds valued at Rs. 14,80,17,143. The value of the total trade between Assam and other provinces rose from Rs. 21,19,44,488 to Rs. 23,45,80,180.

Imports. 144. The principal imports were manufactured cotton, grain, pulse, iron and steel. The total value of the imports in the case of foreign twist and yarn rose from 19·3 to 23·4 lakhs of rupees, and in that of foreign piece-goods from 124·3 to 138·2 lakhs.

There was an increase in the amount of husked rice, mustard oil, betelnuts, refined sugar and manufactured wood imported, but the imports of kerosine oil, salt, unrefined sugar and manufactured tobacco showed a falling off.

Exports. 145. Tea is the most important article of export and its value represents about 75 per cent. of the total value of exports by rail and river. The amount exported rose from 22,16,545 maunds in 1913-14 to 25,26,058 in 1914-15. The export of paddy declined in quantity from 39,93,924 to 39,45,181 maunds, whilst the value, owing to advanced prices, increased from 108·6 to 116·7 lakhs. Though the export of raw cotton rose in quantity its value declined. The exports of jute, timber, raw silk and hide showed a decline both in quantity and value.

SECTION 9.—FRONTIER TRADE.

Registration. 146. There was no change in the number and position of the registering stations or in the system of registration.

Trade. 147. The total value of frontier trade rose from Rs. 34,87,814 to Rs. 36,10,055, of which imports accounted for Rs. 19,63,396.

Bhutan. 148. The value of the import trade rose from Rs. 17,71,159 to Rs. 18,60,199. The principal articles of import were ponies, horned cattle, oranges, hides and skins, lac, musk, *ghee*, other kinds of spices, wax and woollen goods. The chief article of export was silk and the value of the total exports increased from Rs. 15,62,944 to Rs. 16,01,391.

Towang and Charduar Bhutias. 149. The import trade fell from Rs. 35,775 to Rs. 13,221 and export from Rs. 6,158 to Rs. 4,735. The fall is attributed to smaller attendance than usual of the Towang Bhutias at the Udalguri fair.

Akas and Daflas. 150. Imports and exports rose from Rs. 2,843 to Rs. 8,448 and from Rs. 2,742 to Rs. 6,231, respectively, as these people visited the plains in larger numbers than usual.

Abors, Mishmis, etc. 151. Imports expanded from Rs. 63,088 to Rs. 81,625, while exports decreased from Rs. 43,105 to Rs. 34,272. Mishmi "*tita*", a febrifuge much in demand in China, is mainly responsible for the increase, and opium for the decrease, in the value of imports and exports, respectively. The value of salt exported increased considerably, but the increase was more apparent than real, being mainly due to improvement in the system of registration at Sadiya.

General. 152. No tax or impost is known to have been levied by any foreign tribe, but a duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* in addition to royalty is realized on musk, wax and Mishmi "*tita*" at Sadiya.

SECTION 10.—PUBLIC WORKS.

153. The expenditure on Military Works under all heads amounted to Rs. 53,008.

Imperial Works. No new works were commenced during the year. The Sergeant Instructor's quarters at Dullabcherra, a rifle-range at Makum junction and the improvement of the Tezpur armoury were completed.

New post office buildings at Sunamganj and Shamshernagar and improvements to the combined office at Doom Dooma were in progress.

Provincial Works, Official residences. 154. Certain further improvements were made to Government House, Shillong, and the 'Ravenscroft" site was acquired and added to the grounds of Government House.

Thirteen new residences for Government officers were completed during the year and seven were in progress. Certain additions and alterations were also made to ten other existing residences.

Administration.

155. Works completed were a Sub-Deputy Collector's office at Jorhat, Settlement offices at Sylhet, Silchar and Hailakandi and additions to the treasury at Tezpur. The Sub-Deputy Collector's office at Tengakhat and a survey school at Khanamukh were in progress.

Law and Justice.

156. A Munsifi at Sunamganj and certain improvements to the Court-house and Munsifi at Karimganj, to the Court-house at Haflong and to the record and malkhana rooms at North Lakhimpur were completed. Two mortuaries were also completed and three were in progress.

Circuit-houses.

157. New circuit-houses were completed at Cherrapunjee and Haflong. Certain improvements were made to five other circuit-houses and four others were in process of improvement.

Education.

158. The most important works completed were seven hostels at Gauhati, Nowgong, Dibrugarh, Sadiya, Shillong and Sylhet, a combined school and hostel at Aijal and quarters for the Mistress of the Uzan Bazar Girls' School, Gauhati. Improvements were made to the Collegiate School at Gauhati, to the Middle Vernacular School at Chakchaka, to the girls' school at Sylhet, to the College Library at Gauhati and to the North Lakhimpur High School, while the grounds of the High School, Dibrugarh, and the Normal School, Silchar, were also improved. Several educational projects were in progress, the most important of which were the Law College at Gauhati and the new High School buildings at Goalpara, Jorhat and Golaghat.

Jails.

159. A female ward at Dibrugarh, a pucca enclosure wall at North Lakhimpur, two solitary cells at Kohima and worksheds at Shillong and Tura were completed. Enclosure walls were in progress at Nowgong and Mangaldai.

Police.

160. Police buildings were completed at Margherita, Dhekiajuli, Henema, Lakhai, Gowainghat, Sunamganj, Tahirpur, Sherkor and Sadiya, and were under construction at twelve other stations. Certain improvements to the police lines and quarters for three head constables at Gauhati were also in progress.

Medical.

161. New hospital wards were completed at Mokokchang and Tezpur and improvements were effected to the Haflong dispensary, the menials' quarters at Kohima and a temporary cholera hospital at Gauhati. The hospitals at Champhai and North Vanlaiphai, office buildings at Kohima and Silchar and Sub-Assistant Surgeons' quarters at Dalu and Mohendraganj were in course of construction. Materials were also collected for the Central Lunatic Asylum at Tezpur and for the dispensaries at Sadiya, Kobo and Passighat.

Excise.

162. The *garja gola* at Sunamganj was completed and that at Dibrugarh was in progress.

Agriculture.

163. Certain veterinary buildings were in progress at Gauhati.

Public Works Department buildings.

164. Quarters were constructed for the Sub-Overseer at Laluk and offices for the Subdivisional Officers at Sadiya, Sylhet and Passighat and for the Executive Engineer at Sadiya. The offices at Sylhet and Karimganj were extended.

Miscellaneous.

165. Three barracks for the coolie corps at Sadiya and an explosives magazine at Kohima were completed. A magazine at Chhatak was in progress.

Communications.

166. About $11\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs were spent on original works and $10\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs on maintenance. Improvements were effected to the Assam Trunk and North Trunk roads, the Kothiatoli-Amluki road, the Gauhati-Shillong road, the Garamur road, the old Rajgarh Ali, the Jogighopa-Chapaguri road, the Goalpara-Agia road and the Tura-Rowmari road. The following roads were under construction :—

The Lohit Valley road, the Dibrugarh-Steamerghat road, the Powai-Digboi road, the Darrangiri-Dewangiri road, the Kanaibazar-Ratabari road, the Barpeta-Howli road and the Chapor-Sidli road.

The following roads were metalled :—

The Jorhat station roads, the Golaghat-Furkating road, the Jaipur road, the Silchar-Hailakandi road, the Silchar-Manipur road and the Badarpur-Hailakandi road.

Bridges were built over the Natiyakhal at Karimganj, the Diphu at Nichuguard, the Ghoga and Joyma rivers and on the Mauivi Bazar-Shamshernagar road.

Dâk and inspection bungalows.

167. New bungalows were constructed at Silghat, Margherita, Panigaon, Bokakhat and on the Kobo-Passighat road. Bungalows were in progress at Gabru, Damalgiri, Saikhoa and Chhatak. Improvements were made to ten other bungalows.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

Contribution works.

168. Works completed included the improvements to the Silchar *maidan*, the Cherrapunjee water-supply project, and the protection of the river bank at Dibrugarh. The improvements to the Jorhat *maidan* and the sluice gates at Nowgong were in hand.

169. Local Board "Special programme" communication projects transferred for execution amounted to Rs. 12,84,201 up to the end of the year. The expenditure up to the end of the year was Rs. 9,63,001.

The most important works completed were the water-works installations at Jorhat and Haflong, a screw-pile bridge at Herbertganj, a Madrassa at Goalpara and certain medical buildings at Dhubri, Silchar and Dibrugarh. Works completed included the Dhubri and Golaghat water-works, a screw-pile bridge over the Kujia river and dispensary buildings at Gauhati, Tezpur and Golaghat.

Minor Works and Navigation.

170. The bandalling of the Dehing and Desang rivers, the improvement of the navigation of the Kalang river and the removal of snags from various waterways were the principal works. A snag-boat and tender were under construction.

Railways.

171. The total open mileage at the end of the year was 914·07. No addition was made during the year.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—GROSS REVENUE.

172. The revenue and expenditure of the Province for the Financial year 1914-15 are shown in the following tables :—

Receipts during 1914-15.

Heads of Account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Principal Heads of Revenue—			
I.—Land Revenue	37,20,745	37,45,131	74,65,876
II.—Opium	5,53,060	...	5,53,060
III.—Salt	849	...	849
IV.—Stamps	7,15,788	7,15,788	14,31,576
V.—Excise	...	54,12,099	54,12,099
VI.—Provincial rates	...	15,512	15,512
VIII.—Income-tax	2,29,144	2,29,144	4,58,288
IX.—Forest	...	8,32,877	8,32,877
X.—Registration	...	1,12,335	1,12,335
XI.—Tribute	50,100	...	50,100
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue ...	52,69,686	1,10,62,886	1,63,32,572
B.—Interest—			
XII.—Interest	...	66,896	66,896
D.—Receipts by Civil Departments—			
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts ...	...	1,36,817	1,36,817
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails ...	...	90,309	90,309
XVII.—Police	...	1,48,580	1,48,580
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	...	112	
XIX.—Education	...	1,69,456	1,69,456
XX.—Medical	...	23,965	23,965
XXIA.—Agriculture	...	9,255	9,255
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	...	9,595	9,595
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments ...	...	5,88,089	5,88,089
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts—			
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation ...	29,195	5,259	34,454
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	408	6,718	7,126
XXV.—Miscellaneous	8,371	25,770	34,141
Total E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts ...	37,974	37,747	75,721
H.—State Railways—			
XXVI.—State Railways (Gross receipts) ...	...	1,27,545	1,27,545
Deduct working expenses ...	...	1,27,108	1,27,108
Net Railway receipt	...	437	437
K.—Other Public Works—			
XXXI.—Civil works (civil)	...	70,384	70,384
Ditto (Public works)	2,092	1,02,991	105,083
Total K.—Other Public works	2,092	173375	1,75,467
L.—Military Receipts—			
XXXIV.—Military works	5,590	...	5,590
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial Revenues.	—21,57,836	+21,57,836	...
Grand total	31,57,506	1,40,87,266	1,72,44,772

Expenditure during 1914-15.

Heads of account.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
A.—Direct demands on the revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and drawbacks	23,855	47,194	71,049
2.—Assignment and Compensation ...	60,836	17,020	77,856
Charges in respect of collection, *viz.*,—			
3. Land Revenue	...	14,77,681	14,77,681
5. Salt	852	...	852
6. Stamps	32,031	32,031	64,062
7. Excise	...	1,22,198	1,22,198
10. Income-tax	2,411	2,411	4,821
11. Forest	...	8,98,339	8,98,339
12. Registration	...	64,513	64,513
Total A.—Direct demands on the revenue	1,19,985	26,61,382	27,81,367
B.—Interest—			
13. Interest on ordinary debt ...	...	36,563	36,563
14. Interest on other obligations ...	28,322	...	28,322
Total B.—Interest	28,322	36,563	64,885
D.—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments—			
18. General Administration	1,51,684	6,06,828	7,58,512
19A. Law and Justice (Courts) ...	...	10,14,742	10,14,742
19B. Law and Justice (Jails) ...	...	2,94,557	2,94,557
20. Police	...	23,30,652	23,30,652
21. Ports and Pilotage	...	60,729	60,729
22. Education	...	15,98,655	15,98,655
23. Ecclesiastical	19,183	...	19,183
24. Medical	...	7,05,722	7,05,722
25. Political	...	6,03,758	6,03,758
26A. Agriculture	...	2,84,523	2,84,523
26B. Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	...	84,227	84,227
Total D.—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments.	1,70,867	75,84,393	77,55,260

Expenditure during 1914-15—concld.

Heads of accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
E.—Miscellaneous—			
27. Territorial and Political Pensions ...	4,592	...	4,592
29. Superannuation allowances ...	...	3,08,095	3,08,095
30. Stationery and Printing ...	655	1,69,787	1,70,442
32. Miscellaneous	14,184	4,23,224	4,37,408
Total E.—Miscellaneous ...	19,431	9,01,106	9,20,537
F.—Famine Relief and Insurance	...	...	...
H.—Railway Revenue and Accounts—			
40. Subsidised Companies	...	5,112	5,112
41. Miscellaneous Railway expenditure ...	...	...	...
Total H.—Railways	...	5,112	5,112
I.—Irrigation—			
43. Minor Works and Navigation, Civil ...	...	273	273
Public Works	...	67,427	67,427
Total	...	67,700	67,700
K.—Other Public Works—			
44. Construction of Railways charged to Provincial Revenues.	...	6,887	6,887
45. Civil Works, Civil	...	11,34,814	11,34,814
Ditto, Public Works	37,991	43,29,234	43,67,225
Total K.—Other Public Works ...	37,991	54,70,935	55,08,926
L.—Military Works—Ordinary	49,508	.....	49,508
Total Expenditure	4,26,604	1,67,27,191	1,71,53,295

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure during the year 1914-15.

	1913-14.			1914-15.			1914-15 compared with 1913-14.			
							Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Difference.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Difference.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Principal Heads of Revenue	1,67,82,523	27,55,171	+1,40,27,352	1,63,32,572	27,81,367	+1,35,51,205	....	4,49,951	26,196	...
II. Departmental Heads—										
Interest	24,239	54,783	−30,544	66,896	64,885	+2,011	42,657	...	10,102	...
Civil Departments ...	5,16,672	81,89,998	−76,73,326	5,88,089	77,55,260	−71,67,171	71,417	...	...	4,34,738
Miscellaneous ...	86,925	8,51,667	−7,64,742	75,721	9,20,537	−8,44,816	...	11,204	68,870	...
Famine Relief and Insurance.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Railway Revenue Accounts.	34,306	4,647	+29,659	437	5,112	−4,675	...	33,869	465	...
Irrigation	...	1,15,211	−1,15,211	...	67,700	−67,700	...	...	...	47,511
Other Public Works ...	1,52,443	66,80,717	−65,28,274	1,75,467	55,08,926	−53,33,459	23,024	...	...	11,71,791
Military Works Services	7,860	47,739	−39,889	5,590	49,508	−43,918	...	2,260	1,769	...
Total Departmental Heads	8,22,435	1,59,44,762	−1,51,22,327	9,12,200	1,43,71,928	−1,34,59,728	1,37,098	47,333	81,206	16,54,040
Grand total	1,76,94,958	1,86,99,933	−10,04,975	1,72,44,772	1,71,53,295	+91,477	1,37,098	4,97,284	1,07,402	16,54,040

Land Revenue.

173. The expenditure of the year compares as follows with that of 1913-14, and with the budget estimate for 1914-15 :—

Minor heads.	1914-15 compared with 1913-14.		1914-15 compared with budget estimate.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Charges of District Administration ...	28,000	...	...	2,000
2. Management of Government Estates ...	3,000	...	3,000	...
3. Charges on account of Land Revenue Collections	...	88,000	...	89,000
4. Charges on account of Fishery Collection ...	...	...	...	9,000
5. Survey and Settlement	...	14,000	...	1,04,000
6. Land Records	23,000	...	7,000	...
7. Allowances to District and Village Officers ...	...	...	...	...

The increase under Charges of District Administration is due to the recall of officers from leave ; and that under Land Records to increased expenditure on the salaries of mandals, on the construction of quarters for them and on compensation for dearness of provisions. The decrease under Charges on account of Land Revenue Collections is due to the late collection of revenue and the consequent postponement of payment of commission till after the close of the year ; whilst that under Survey and Settlement is due to an excess debit by the Accountant General, Bengal, in the previous year and to the fact that the recoverable survey charges of the previous year were adjusted by reduction of expenditure in the year under review.

174. The details by minor heads of actual and estimated expenditure under this head are shown in round figures in the following table :—

Minor heads.	Actuals, 1913-14.	Budget, 1914-15.	Actuals, 1914-15.	Comparison with actuals, 1913-14.	Comparison with budget, 1914-15.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Salary of Chief Commissioner	55,000	55,000	55,000	...	...
2. Staff and household of Chief Commissioner ...	37,000	35,000	42,000	+5,000	+7,000
3. Expenditure from contract allowance, etc. ...	24,000	17,000	5,000	—19,000	—12,000
4. Tour expenses	5,000	7,000	13,000	+8,000	+6,000
5. Legislative Council	11,000	12,000	11,000	...	— 1,000
6. Civil Secretariat	2,09,000	1,97,000	2,22,000	+13,000	+25,000
7. Board of Revenue	...	...	...	...	...
8. Commissioners	1,28,000	1,43,000	1,41,000	+ 13,000	—2,000
9. Civil Offices of Account and Audit—					
(*a*) Imperial	1,40,000	1,76,000	1,52,000	+12,000	—24,000
(*b*) Provincial	23,000	20,000	22,000	—1,000	+2,000
10. Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Excise, etc.	39,000	41,000	47,000	+6,000	+4,000
11. Director of Land Records and Agriculture ...	52,000	44,000	50,000	—2,000	+6,000
Total ...	7,23,000	7,47,000	7,58,000	+35,000	+11,000

The excesses and savings under the minor heads two, three and four were due to changes in the classification of the charges. The increase under Civil Secretariat was mainly due to the longer employment of Special Officers, and that under Commissioners to the part payment for a steamer which is under construction for the Commissioner of the Surma Valley and Hill Districts.

B.—IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

SECTION 1.—Land Revenue.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1914-15.]

Land revenue.

175. The total ordinary land revenue demand rose from Rs. 75,11,733 to Rs. 75,74,477, of which Rs. 71,47,609 or 94·36 per cent. were collected and Rs. 7,229 remitted, leaving a net balance of Rs. 4,22,942 at the close of the year. The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue fell from Rs. 7,14,869 to Rs. 6,67,751, of which 96·91 per cent. was collected, Rs. 4,202 remitted, and Rs. 16,392 remained outstanding.

SECTION 2.—Sources of Revenue other than Land Revenue.

Salt.

176. The only salt warehouse in the province is situated at Ajmiriganj in the district of Sylhet. The quantity of salt imported during the year amounted to 47,000 maunds against 43,000 maunds in the previous year, and 45,526 maunds were cleared against 42,406 maunds in 1913-14. The average wholesale and retail prices were Rs. 2-3-6 and Rs. 3 per maund, the figures for the previous year being Re. 1-15 and Rs. 2-4-4 respectively. The net revenue rose from Rs. 41,983 to Rs. 50,953.

Excise receipts and charges.

177. The revenue demand under all heads amounted to Rs. 53,79,936 against Rs. 52,51,867 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 2·4 per cent. The increase was shared by both the divisions. The decrease by 3·8 per cent. in license fees, which was due to poor settlements of country spirit and opium shops in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur consequent on the losses experienced by some of the principal *abkars* in 1913-14, was more than counterbalanced by an increase in duty by 5·8 per cent. The increase in the realisation from duty was due to an increase in consumption of

opium and country spirit and to the raising of the duty on opium and *ganja*. Settlements for 1915-16 again improved and advance collections were better by Rs. 9,092. Of the total demand recoverable during the year 99·91 per cent. was realised, the outstanding balance being Rs. 1,482.

The total expenditure of the department rose from Rs. 1,15,385 to Rs. 1,37,156 representing 2·53 per cent. of the total receipts against 2·19 per cent. in the previous year. The increase was due to an increase in rewards, in the cost of conveyance of opium and in refunds due to the surrender of certain opium shops, and to the purchase of an elephant for the excise officers of Lakhimpur.

Country spirit.

178. The consumption of country spirit rose by 1·4 per cent., but the receipts fell from Rs. 15,31,667 to Rs. 15,09,056 or by 1·47 per cent. The increase in consumption was most marked in Lakhimpur and Cachar and is attributed to better supervision and consequent suppression of illicit distillation and to the growth of the immigrant population. The consumption in Goalpara decreased by 12·7 per cent. owing to the collapse of the trade in jute, timber and hides and to the dearness of food-grains which affected the purchasing powers of consumers. The issue strengths, rate of duty and cost price of country spirit remained the same as in the previous year, but the duty has been increased from the 1st April 1915 from Rs. 3-2-0 to Rs. 3-12-0 per L. P. gallon, and the minimum and maximum retail prices for 60° U. P. liquor have been raised with effect from the same date from annas six and annas eight to annas eight and annas ten, respectively. The incidence of taxation per head of population remained highest in the districts of Lakhimpur (Re. 1-3-1) and Sibsagar (Re. 0-9-1). There was no change in the area in which the outstill system was in force. Since the adoption of the contract distillery system, samples of the spirit manufactured at Jorhat have been regularly submitted to the prescribed officer at Kasauli or Calcutta, and, throughout the year under report, as in previous years, the samples have been declared to be of excellent quality and free from any deleterious substance.

Ganja.

179. Although the number of retail licenses was reduced from 240 to 236 and the consumption of *ganja* fell from 898 maunds to 756 maunds the revenue increased, owing to favourable settlements and the enhancement of the duty on *ganja*, from Rs. 7,89,507 to Rs. 8,22,854.

Opium.

180. The consumption of opium increased by 2·6 per cent. and the revenue rose from Rs. 29,17,470 to Rs. 30,53,498. There was an increase of Rs. 1,53,930 under duty, while license fees decreased by Rs. 17,902. The increase under duty was due to an increase in consumption and to the raising of the rate of duty.

General.

181. Important measures were introduced at the beginning of the year with the object of restricting the consumption of opium and *ganja*. The treasury price of opium in the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur was raised from Rs. 42 to Rs. 45 and in the plains portion of the district of Cachar from Rs. 37 to Rs. 40 and the duty on *ganja* was raised to a uniform rate of Rs. 16 per seer throughout the province. The maximum amount of opium allowed to be possessed by private persons or sold by retail in the plains districts was reduced from 3 tolas to 2 tolas, and the limit of private possession and of retail sale in the case of *ganja* was reduced from 10 to 5 tolas. The minimum age for the purchase of opium and *ganja* was raised to 20 years. Since the close of the year the treasury price of opium in Sylhet and Cachar has been raised to Rs. 40 and the duty on distillery spirit has been raised to Rs. 3-12-0. Minimum retail prices for opium, *ganja* and country spirit have also been fixed and the hours of sale for country spirit, *ganja* and opium shops have been curtailed by two hours, the shops being now obliged to close by 6 p.m. in the cold weather and 7 p.m. in the hot weather. Local Boards have been constituted as Advisory Boards as regards the location of rural shops. The steady progress in the policy of reducing the number of stills and enhancing the still fees in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills has also been maintained.

A tentative arrangement has been arrived at with the Hill Tippera Durbar which provides for a reduction in the number of outstills and vend shops on the borders of Sylhet from 18 to 8 and for the establishment of a three-mile shopless zone on either side of the boundary.

A small committee has been appointed to consider and report on a suggestion which has been made to remove the Jorhat distillery to another site.

Stamps.

182. Receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts rose from Rs. 13,38,222 to Rs. 14,10,511 and the charges from Rs. 39,760 to Rs. 41,256. Judicial stamps contributed the greater part of the increase, namely, Rs. 70,995, while non-judicial stamps contributed Rs. 1,295. The increase occurred in the Surma Valley Division. There

was a decrease of revenue in the Assam Valley Districts due to the stagnation in the jute and timber trades, to unfavourable agricultural conditions and the consequent reduction in the number of highly-valued suits. The number of stamp vendors rose from 351 to 359 and the discount allowed to them rose from Rs. 29,311 to Rs. 29,816. The number of prosecutions fell from 21 to 4, and the amount of fines imposed from Rs. 84 to Rs. 80. There was no prosecution in the Surma Valley and Hill Districts. Fifty-six applications were made to the Collector for probates and letters of administration and in 55 of these cases enquiries were instituted.

183. Income-tax receipts increased from Rs. 4,27,968 in 1913-14 to Rs. 4,60,408 or by 7·58 per cent. The number of assessees and the final demand, excluding the tax on salaries of Government officials, and on interest on securities, were 5,352 and Rs. 3,72,978 against 4,949 and Rs. 3,48,639, respectively, in the previous year. Income-tax.

184. SECTION 3.—PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Year.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1913-14	78,06,494	1,61,06,949	1,83,24,640	55,88,803
1914-15	55,88,803	1,40,87,266	1,67,27,191	29,48,878

The budget estimate for 1913-14 provided for an opening balance of Rs. 53,85,000, receipts amounting to Rs. 1,51,98,000, expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,74,19,000 and a closing balance of Rs. 31,64,000.

The Provincial receipts fell short of the budget estimates by Rs 11,11,000. As the Government of India make an annual contribution to the Provincial revenues to cover all the extra charges incurred by the Local Administration in the North-East Frontier, a saving of Rs. 5,01,000 from the budget grant for such charges is responsible for the corresponding decline in revenue. Other minor variations in assignments to or from Provincial comprised an additional grant of Rs. 13,000 from Imperial revenues for the provincialisation of the salary of the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, and a reduction of Rs. 69,000 in the assignment from Provincial for the printing of forms for Assam by the Government of Bengal. The actual Provincial revenue thus fell short of the estimate by Rs. 6,92,000. The more important of the deficits occurred under Land Revenue and Forests, and were partly due to the war. Receipts.

In addition to the original budget provision of Rs. 1,74,19,000, further allotments to the extent of Rs. 1,52,000 were sanctioned for various purposes. Owing, however, to the outbreak of the war and the consequent decline of revenue, expenditure was curtailed as far as possible, and the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 1, 67,27,000. There was thus a saving on the original allotment of Rs. 6,92,000. Expenditure.

The opening balance of Rs. 55,88,803 included the following assignments given by the Government of India for special purposes:— Assignments.

	Rs.
Education	11,73,000
Sanitation	2,96,000
Agriculture	40,000
Police	2,29,000
Development of the province	12,80,000
Discretionary purposes	5,50,000
Total ...	35,68,000

During the year further recurring assignments were received as follows:—

	Rs.
Education	3,98,000
Sanitation	50,000
Total ...	4,48,000

Out of these assignments, aggregating Rs. 40,16,000, Rs. 19,88,000 were spent during the year and Rs. 20,28,000 remained as part of the closing balance.

SECTION 4.—Local Funds.

185. The following statements show the receipts and charges during the year of those Local Funds of which an account is submitted to Government:—

A

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Local Boards in Assam during 1914-15.

Serial No.	Names of Local Boards.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Silchar	62,589 0 7	2,09,337 12 9	2,71,926 13 4	2,33,831 9 2	38,095 4 2
2	Hailakandi ...	30,363 9 7 (a)	93,431 4 10	1,23,794 14 5	94,892 11 0	28,902 3 5
3	Tezpur	31,625 0 7	1,34,128 4 4	1,65,753 4 11	1,18,130 9 2	47,622 11 9
4	Mangaldai ...	52,187 1 6	1,01,115 13 5	1,53,302 14 11	1,24,618 10 1	28,684 4 10
5	Dhubri	81,414 8 4	2,11,572 2 7	2,92,986 10 11	2,20,975 15 11	72,010 11 0
6	Goalpara	28,942 14 9	1,04,859 11 10	1,33,802 10 7	87,191 13 0	46,610 13 7
7	Gauhati	80,922 0 9	2,01,509 0 0	2,82,431 0 9	2,58,682 5 1	23,748 11 8
8	Barpeta	24,988 8 4	79,374 13 1	1,04,363 5 5	94,369 15 6	9,993 5 11
9	Dibrugarh ...	65,997 2 0	1,72,345 1 6	2,38,342 3 6	2,21,623 13 9	16,718 5 9
10	North Lakhimpur ...	22,489 6 4	98,231 10 4	1,20,721 0 8	1,02,632 9 10	18,088 6 10
11	Nowgong ...	42,235 6 2	1,60,492 7 0	2,02,727 13 2	1,65,410 12 7	37,317 0 7
12	Sibsagar ...	43,403 7 9	1,67,635 13 8	2,11,039 5 5	1,11,008 13 5	1,00,030 8 0
13	Jorhat	48,093 14 11	1,31,987 8 5	1,80,081 7 4	1,29,825 5 9	50,256 1 7
14	Golaghat	39,843 12 10	99,788 4 8	1,39,632 1 6	1,01,725 0 8	37,907 0 10
15	North Sylhet ...	20,926 11 11	1,81,591 12 11	2,02,518 8 10	1,80,190 11 3	22,327 13 7
16	Habiganj	57,215 9 4	1,49,221 12 8	2,06,437 6 0	1,51,152 14 0	55,284 8 0
17	Sunamganj ...	15,526 10 2	1,02,206 15 4	1,17,733 9 6	97,499 15 7	20,233 9 11
18	South Sylhet ...	38,318 7 8	1,42,746 13 2	1,81,065 4 10	1,68,301 9 7	12,763 11 3
19	Karimganj ...	21,277 1 10	1,60,431 3 6	1,81,708 5 4	1,65,755 1 11	15,953 3 5
	Total	8,08,360 7 4 (a)	27,02,008 6 0	35,10,368 13 4	28,27,820 5 3	6,82,548 8 1

(a) Difference of Rs. 96-4 as compared with the closing balance of 1913-14 due to corrections subsequently made in the March supplementary accounts of 1914.

B

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Municipalities in Assam during 1914-15.

Serial No.	Names of Municipalities.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Silchar ...	81,554 6 6	56,828 6 4	1,38,382 12 10	31,441 2 3	1,06,941 10 7
2	Hailakandi ...	2,048 4 11	13,457 1 10	15,505 6 9	9,730 2 8	5,775 4 1
3	Tezpur ...	4,240 2 1	92,268 6 8	96,508 8 9	27,619 7 8	68,889 1 1
4	Dhubri ...	47,314 14 10	27,351 8 2	74,666 7 0	62,237 15 6	12,428 7 6
5	Goalpara ...	2,046 4 9	12,700 10 6	14,746 15 3	12,964 4 10	1,782 10 5
6	Barpeta ...	12,294 12 11	22,694 0 7	34,988 13 6	29,189 8 8	5,799 4 10
7	Gauhati ...	29,864 0 3	69,709 3 3	99,573 3 6	85,241 1 6	14,332 2 0
8	Shillong ...	11,843 0 9	74,016 12 0	85,859 12 9	74,708 4 11	11,151 7 10
9	Dibrugarh ...	16,828 12 3	42,746 13 6	59,575 9 9	50,876 1 8	8,699 8 1
10	Nowgong ...	3,538 12 6	19,382 4 11	22,921 1 5	14,511 8 11	8,409 8 6
11	Golaghat ...	5,805 9 11	13,533 15 9	19,339 9 8	11,257 3 2	8,082 6 6
12	Jorhat ...	2,704 14 0	20,417 9 5	23,122 7 5	20,185 2 8	2,937 4 9
13	Sibsagar ...	4,604 0 7	21,789 4 7	26,393 5 2	17,994 11 4	8,398 9 10
14	Nazira ...	7,929 11 4	9,005 0 2	16,934 11 6	8,395 2 1	8,539 9 5
15	Habiganj ...	6,787 0 8	17,492 10 9	24,279 11 5	11,964 2 9	12,315 8 8
16	North Sylhet ...	14,060 6 7	1,62,261 15 10	1,76,322 6 5	38,441 10 3	1,37,880 12 2
17	Karimganj ...	1,101 6 8	21,606 4 6	22,707 11 2	16,100 5 4	6,607 5 10
18	Sunamganj ...	3,247 8 7	15,422 4 4	18,669 12 11	10,811 4 0	7,858 8 11
19	South Sylhet ...	...	6,857 2 0	6,857 2 0	4,487 5 6	2,369 12 6
	Total ...	2,57,814 2 1	7,19,541 7 1	9,77,355 9 2	5,38,156 9 8	4,39,198 15 6

C

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Town and Bazar Funds in Assam during 1914-15.

Serial No.	Names of Town Funds.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	North Cachar Hills Bazar Fund.	3,785 2 5	6,998 5 0	10,783 7 5	8,706 3 5	2,077 4 0
2	Mangaldai Town Fund ...	2,735 4 3	3,732 4 0	6,467 8 3	3,016 12 7	3,450 11 8
3	Jowai Bazar Fund ...	261 1 5	666 14 0	927 15 5	481 11 1	446 4 4
4	North Lakhimpur Town Fund	5,181 8 3	5,660 9 3	10,842 1 6	6,835 12 11	4,006 4 7
	Total ...	11,963 0 4	17,058 0 3	29,021 0 7	19,040 8 0	9,980 8 7

D

Statement showing the income, expenditure and balance of Cantonment Funds, Chawkidari Reward Funds and Assam Williamson Education Fund during 1914-15.

Serial No.	Names of Funds.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
	I.—CANTONMENT FUNDS.					
1	Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	1,406 3 8	13,872 13 11	15,279 0 9	13,455 5 0	1,823 11 9
2	Lakhimpur	467 12 1	6,427 4 9	6,965 0 10	6,331 0 7	634 0 3
	Total	1,873 15 9	20,370 1 10	22,244 1 7	19,786 5 7	2,457 12 0
	II.—DISTRICT CHAUKIDARI REWARD FUND.					
1	Cachar	489 7 9	986 6 3	1,475 14 0	905 0 0	570 14 0
2	Goalpara	10,592 0 7	787 2 0	11,379 2 7	749 0 0	10,630 2 7
3	Sylhet	9,652 10 4	2,727 0 3	12,379 10 7	2,463 6 0	9,916 4 7
	Total	20,734 2 8	4,500 8 6	25,234 11 2	4,117 6 0	21,117 5 2
	III.—ASSAM WILLIAMSON EDUCATION FUND.	16,270 8 11	4,242 5 2	20,512 14 1	18,737 8 11	1,775 5 2

SECTION 5.—Local Rates.

[*See* Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1914-15].

186. The current demand rose from Rs. 7,91,291 to Rs. 7,96,673, but there was a small falling off in collections, only 89·29 per cent. of the demand being realised as against 89·55 per cent. in the preceding year. Of a total unrealised balance of Rs. 85,265, Rs. 72,787 were outstanding in Sylhet, where the *kist* date falls too late to admit of effective measures being taken to realise arrears before the close of the revenue year. 99·15 per cent. of the arrears was collected as against 99·35 per cent. in the preceding year. Remissions amounted to Rs. 99.

SECTION 6.—Educational Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 7.—Municipal Revenues.

187. The subject of Municipal income and expenditure is discussed in Section 8, Chapter III, of this Report. Revenue and Finance.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION I.—Vital Statistics.

General. 188. The Provincial Vital Statistics are based on a population of 6,051,507 in the plains districts. The birth-rate during the year was 32·94 per mille as compared with 33·06 in the previous year, while the death-rate fell from 27·66 to 24·66. The excess of the birth-rate over the death-rate rose from 5·4 to 8·78 per mille.

In tea estates the birth and death-rates fell from 26·66 and 25·47 per mille in 1913 to 24·54 and 21·93 per mille, respectively. The number of deaths exceeded the number of births in the districts of Darrang and Nowgong.

The ratio of mortality from the chief diseases was fever 13·75, cholera 1·53, dysentery and diarrhœa 2 23, against 13·43, 2·87 and 2·42, respectively, in the preceding decennium.

Registration. 189. The registration of vital statistics in many districts is still very imperfectly performed. An improved machinery which was introduced late in the year for registration in the larger towns should result in increased accuracy in the urban figures. In certain rural areas where the recorded rates of births and deaths were suspiciously low during the preceding year, special enquiries revealed large numbers of omissions. Efforts are being made to devise means to improve the accuracy of the rural returns.

Hill Districts. 190. Vital statistics recorded in hill districts are given in the following table :—

District.	Birth-rate.		Death-rate.	
	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.
1	2	3	4	5
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	29·26	25·18	18·40	18·34
Naga Hills	21·87	27·65	25·58	18·98
Lushai Hills	35·98	40·91	28·81	32·84
Garo Hills	30·98	30·78	25·93	23·37

SECTION 2.—Immigration and Labour Inspection.

[*See* Resolution on Immigrant Labour in Assam for the year 1914-15.]

Legislation. 191. The most important feature of the year was the enactment in the Imperial Legislative Council of the Assam Labour and Emigration (Amendment) Act (VIII of 1915) under which the system of recruitment by contractors was abolished and a Labour Board was constituted for the supervision of local agents and of the recruitment, engagement and emigration to labour districts of natives of India under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, VI of 1901. The orders of the Government of India withdrawing from the four Upper Assam Valley districts the labour districts provisions of Act VI of 1901 with effect from the 1st July 1915 were received after the close of the year.

Immigration. 192. The year was a prosperous one for the tea industry. The demand for labour was as acute as ever and there was a considerable increase in immigration; the number of immigrants amounted to 63,638 which was higher than in any of the preceding four years. Of these, 2,465 were indentured under Act VI of 1901. The bulk of the immigrants came from the Santhal Parganas, Chota Nagpur and the plains districts of the United Provinces and Bengal. Arrivals from the Central Provinces and Madras were fewer than usual. The health of the coolies in transit was good and only 42 deaths, mostly due to cholera, occurred amongst them.

193. At the close of the year the total strength of the labour force was 879,330 against 846,567 in the preceding year. Of these, only 1·5 per cent. of adults had contracts under Act VI of 1901. The birth-rate per mille of the total strength and that calculated on the adult female population were slightly higher than in the preceding year, being 25·9 and 88·8 against 25·5 and 86·6, respectively. The death-rate per mille of the total labour force was slightly less than that of the previous year, being 24·2 against 24·7 in 1913-14. Of the total number of deaths, *viz.*, 20,876, diarrhœa, dysentery and ankylostomiasis were responsible for 7,963 and respiratory diseases for 2,333. Immigrate population.

The number of complaints of fraudulent recruitment fell from 101 to 81, of which 29 were found on investigation to be true. The contracts of 45 coolies improperly recruited for Sylhet under contract were cancelled during the year. Three complaints of ill-treatment, of which one was found to be true, were preferred by coolies against their employers. Managers instituted 10 cases of unlawful assembly or rioting and 5 cases of assault against coolies. In these cases 72 persons were sent to prison.

Act XIII of 1859 continued to be largely used both for new coolies and for those whose contracts under Act VI had expired, and is again reported to have worked satisfactorily on the whole. These contracts are popular amongst the coolies on account of the advance on which they depend. In most districts managers rely almost entirely on their moral effect and seldom institute criminal proceedings if they are broken. The relations between the planters and their coolies and the neighbouring villagers were excellent.

At the close of the year under report, 213,850 acres of Government land were held direct by time-expired coolies and 10,421 acres were also reported to be held by these people as sub-tenants. In Lakhimpur district 7,290 acres of Government lands have been settled with managers on special nine years' leases for the cultivation of their coolies.

SECTION 3.—Charitable Dispensaries.

[*See* Dispensary Returns of the Province of Assam for 1914.]

Dispensaries

194. The number of hospitals and dispensaries in the province fell from 225 in 1913 to 204 in 1914. Of these 120 were supported by local bodies and the rest by private persons or by the State. Nineteen travelling dispensaries were opened during the year, but 20 had to be closed owing to the deputation of a number of Assistant Surgeons to military duty. The number of travelling dispensaries at work during part of the year was 26 and they treated a total of 42,202 patients.

The number of patients treated rose to 1,710,036. The total number of in-patients treated was 14,809.

The income at the disposal of State-public, local fund and private-aided dispensaries was Rs. 5,92,251, of which Rs. 2,83,868 were contributed by Government. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 4,60,997. The increase in the expenditure is mainly due to the revision of the pay of Sub-Assistant Surgeons, to the construction of new out-door dispensary buildings, and to the opening of travelling dispensaries.

There was a distinct improvement in the matter of the inspection of dispensaries.

Leper Asylum.

195. In the Leper Asylum at Sylhet 68 patients were under treatment during the year. Of these, 14 were discharged, 17 absconded, 5 died, and 32 remained at the close of the year. The total expenditure, excluding establishment charges, was Rs. 3,546 against Rs. 3,923 in the previous year. The decrease in expenditure is due to the substitution of "Antileprol" and "Leprolin" in place of "Nastin", an expensive preparation which has not proved a success. A small hospital for the segregation and treatment of lepers was opened at Kohima in the Naga Hills on the 18th February 1914, with accommodation for 12 patients. Twenty-three lepers were admitted during the year, of whom, 11 were discharged, 1 died and 11 remained at the close of the year. The total expenditure, excluding establishment charges, was Rs. 1,143.

SECTION 4.—Lunatic Asylum.

[*See* Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylum in Assam for the years 1912, 1913 and 1914.]

Population.

196. During the year 95 patients were admitted, the largest number hitherto recorded. The increase was mainly due to the fact that lunatics from Sylhet and Cachar, who had previously been admitted to the Dacca Asylum, were received at

Tezpur from the latter part of 1913. Thirty-nine were discharged, 6 transferred to friends, 2 escaped, and 17 died, leaving 291 inmates in the Asylum at the close of the year, of whom 87 were criminal lunatics. The largest number of insanes were among cultivators and tea-garden coolies between 20 and 40 years of age.

Owing to defective information supplied on the medical history sheets, the predisposing and exciting causes could not be ascertained in 86 cases. The majority of those admitted were suffering from mania (43) and melancholia (19).

Health.

197. The number of admissions to hospital fell from 189 to 122, the daily average of sick rose from 39·06 to 51·56, but the percentages of deaths to daily average strength fell from 9·47 to 6·05. A project for reconstructing the building at a cost of over three and a half lakhs has been prepared and work has commenced. Meanwhile adequate temporary accommodation has been provided with satisfactory results. In spite of the increase in the number of inmates, the number of deaths fell from 47 in 1912 to 17 in 1914, fatal cases of tuberculosis falling from 23 to 7. In 1914, the rate of mortality amongst the inmates of the Asylum was lower than in any other province in India.

Cost of maintenance.

198. The cost of maintaining the Asylum rose from Rs. 37,562-14-11 with an average cost per head of Rs. 154-11-9 in 1913 to Rs. 76,119-6-8, with an average cost per head of Rs. 270-11-11 in 1914. The increase was due mainly to heavy charges for buildings, additions to the staff, a revised scale of pay, and increased expenditure under diet, clothing, bedding, medicines, etc.

SECTION 5.—SANITATION.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Assam for 1914.]

Urban areas.

199. Piped water-supply projects for the towns of Sylhet, Tezpur, Dhubri and Cherrapoonji were finally approved during the year, and substantial grants were made by the Local Administration towards their execution. Less ambitious schemes of water-supply by the construction or improvement of tanks were sanctioned for Golaghat, Nazira and Jowai, and were partly or wholly financed from Government funds. Grants were also made towards the improvement of the conservancy system in Sylhet, Dibrugarh and Imphal, and towards the improvement of drainage in Shillong, Nowgong and Golaghat. The necessity for improved sanitation at the cost of enhanced taxation is realised in many municipalities and a substantial increase of expenditure occurred under the head "Conservancy" during the year.

Rural areas.

200. On the whole good progress was made in the improvement of the rural water-supply with the Government grant of Rs. 10,000 which was made to each Local Board in 1913; and a start was also made with a special scheme for the improvement of the water-supply along the banks of the Kalang river in Nowgong, an area especially liable to water-born diseases. The five-year-programmes of water-supply, which were prepared by all Local Boards as the result of the Conference on rural water-supply which was held in Shillong in 1913, were finally approved after the close of the year, and funds have been provided for the first year's programme.

Medical.

201. The sale of quinine "treatments" showed an increase of 1,069 parcels over the figures of the previous year. Since the close of the year a scheme for selling quinine through village school-masters has been approved.

There was a large decrease in the number of deaths from *kala-azar*. The check to the upward tendency of the mortality from this disease, which has been a cause of anxiety during recent years in the districts of Nowgong and Goalpara, is particularly satisfactory, and affords grounds for the hope that the measures taken to eradicate the disease from the province will prove successful. Six travelling dispensaries were at work in the infected areas for varying periods and did good service in obtaining information as to the behaviour of the disease and in treating sick persons and bringing medical aid to remote villages.

SECTION 6.—VACCINATION.

[*See* Vaccination Return of the Province of Assam for the year 1914-15.]

Operations.

202. The total number of operations performed during the year by all agencies was 320,016, which represents a decrease of 16,633 operations as compared with the figures of the previous year. The average number of persons vaccinated by each vaccinator was 907. There was no appreciable increase in the number of successful operations in any district, but there was a large decline in the Garo Hills district. In the

Kamrup district the prejudices of the Mahapurushia sect are being gradually overcome. The attention of Civil Surgeons was drawn to the insufficient inspection of vaccination, but no improvement in this direction has been effected except in the districts of Cachar and Nowgong.

The successful percentages in primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations in the case of vaccinators were 96·29 and 68·00, respectively, against 98·47 and 78·11, respectively, in the previous year. Of the total number of vaccinations and re-vaccinations performed, 4·28 per cent. and 4·05 per cent. were, respectively, verified by the Civil Surgeons and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, and 51·66 per cent. and 41·30 per cent., respectively, by the subordinate inspecting staff.

In towns in which compulsory vaccination is enforced, 67 per cent. of the available infants were vaccinated as compared with 78 per cent. in the preceding year. The low percentage shows the laxity with which the Act is administered in many towns. This defect is receiving close attention and a more strict observance of the provisions of the Act is being insisted upon.

The cost of the Department including that of the lymph prepared at the Shillong Vaccine Depôt was Rs. 62,169-9-0 which gives an average cost of Rs. 0-3-7 for each successful vaccination.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 121-123.]

SECTION 2.—EDUCATION.

General.

203. The returns shew an advance in the total number of institutions from 4,578 to 4,822 and in enrolment from 2,15,141 to 2,33,883. The percentage of male pupils to the male population of school-going age increased from 35·08 to 39·67 and that of female pupils from 4·61 to 5·66.

The total expenditure increased from Rs. 23,28,287 to Rs. 26,54,237, the increase having been shared both by public and private funds.

Collegiate Education.

204. The enrolment in the two Colleges rose from 442 to 551. The number of graduates was 27 and that of intermediates 114, the figures for the preceding year being 17 and 110, respectively.

The Cotton College offered instruction up to the Degree standard and Honour in English, Sanskrit, History, Philosophy, Politics, Chemistry, Mathematics, up to the Degree standard in Persian, and up to the M. A. standard in English. The proposal for the advance of the Murarichand College to the Degree standard had to be held back on account of the war. The hostel scheme in connection with the Cotton College was completed during the year. The staffs of both the Colleges were strengthened according to requirements. The laboratories attached to them were improved both in equipment and accommodation.

Secondary Education.

205. The number of high schools for boys rose from 29 to 30 and of pupils in attendance from 11,120 to 12,158 or by about 9 per cent. The policy of provincialising high schools situated at subdivisional headquarters was pursued. The aided high school at Maulvi Bazar was brought under the direct charge of Government from 1st April 1914. The development of Government high schools continued within the two-section limit, 16 new sections being opened involving the appointment of 18 new teachers. Liberal grants were given to the aided high schools to enable them to follow the same lines of development as Government schools.

The number of candidates for the Matriculation Examination fell from 483 to 477, while the number of passes rose from 300 to 314, the percentage of success being 65·8 against 62 in the preceding year.

Middle English schools declined both in number and enrolment. There were 110 middle English schools with 12,469 pupils, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 113 and 13,693, respectively. The reduction in number is due to the transfer of 7 inefficient schools to the list of private institutions and in enrolment mainly to the discontinuance of the lower primary classes in a considerable number of schools.

Middle vernacular schools, which were supposed to be in a dying condition, shew an increase of about 40 per cent. in their enrolment. There were 64 schools with 7,385 scholars against 47 schools with 5,244 pupils in 1913-14.

With the object of popularising vernacular education, the upper primary classification of schools for scholarship and examination purposes was abolished during the year, a public examination for Leaving Certificate and scholarships at the close of the vernacular school course was re-instituted and the Leaving Certificate examinations at other stages were abolished. The syllabus of studies was revised.

Primary Education.

206. The enrolment in boys' primary schools shews an increase of between 8 and 9 per cent. Schools rose from 3,760 to 3,926 and pupils from 1,61,730 to 1,75,414. There has been a fairly satisfactory advance in the numbers in the higher classes. Expenditure increased from Rs. 5,51,726 to Rs. 6,43,464.

Institutions for training of teachers.

207. The number of institutions remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 9 for males and 2 for females. There were 393 pupils in these schools against 432 in 1913-14. The number of trained vernacular teachers in the province rose from 2,388 to 2,519. The revised courses for the Normal and training classes which have been introduced have proved popular. Many applications for admission had to be refused for want of accommodation.

208. The Earle Law College at Gauhati made a start in July 1914. The necessary staff was appointed, an extensive library was collected and the construction of buildings for the college and the hostel proceeded. Pending the completion of these buildings, only the first year class was opened. Temporary arrangements were made for the accommodation of the small class of 12 students which was enrolled. Law College and School.

The pleadership class at Gauhati had an enrolment of 17 students against 14 in the previous year.

209. There were 130 students on the rolls against 112 in the preceding year. The enrolment consisted of 17 hill-men, 9 Bengalis, 75 residents of the Brahmaputra Valley and 29 residents of the Surma Valley. 14 students passed the diploma examination. Medical School.

210. A middle English and technical school for Meches was started at Tipkai in Dhubri. A scheme for technical education amongst the Lushais was worked out and started. The number and value of the engineering scholarships tenable at Dacca and Sibpur was raised. The two State schools continued to do useful work. Apprentice artisans were trained in the various workshops. Technical and Industrial schools.

211. The total number of tols of all classes, public and private, was 85 against 81 in the previous year. The enrolment rose from 1,446 to 1,570. A scheme for the establishment of a Government Sanskrit college was sanctioned and a survey of tols was undertaken with a view to the revisal of the syllabuses and of the scholarship and grant-in-aid rules. The condition of tols is far from satisfactory. Tols.

212. Public madrasas rose from 34 to 39 and their pupils from 2,659 to 3,059. The Government Madrasa opened its first senior class in April 1915 and will annually add one class till the full senior madrasa standard is attained. Madrasas.

213. At the close of the year 5·66 per cent. of the girls of Assam were attending school against 4·61 per cent in 1913-14. The number of recognised schools for girls increased from 318 to 365 and that of the girls at school from 22,687 to 26,713 shewing an increase of about 18 per cent. The enrolment shews advance in almost every stage of instruction. The figures are more encouraging than those for last year. Female Education.

214. Both the existing schools continue to do good work. The enrolment advanced from 104 to 113. Grants were made for the construction of a small Convent school at Haflong and a secondary boys' school to be managed by the Irish Christian Brothers in Shillong. Building operations have been in progress. A scheme for the extension of the Pine Mount School materialised and the new dormitories of the Loreto Convent School were completed. European Education.

215. Comparative statistics of Muhammadan enrolment in all classes of recognised schools will be found in the statement given below :— Muhammadan Education.

	1913-14.	1914-15.
High schools	2,046	2,348
Middle English schools	2,897	2,474
Middle vernacular schools	895	1,323
Primary schools	38,631	42,738

The number of Muhammadan students at College rose from 67 to 85.

An important conference was held during the year which submitted recommendations in regard to all branches of Muhammadan education.

216. Substantial progress was made in the Garo and the Lushai Hills. The Naga Hills remain almost untouched by education. The Khasi and Jaintia Hills continue to send a larger proportion of their boys and girls to school than any other district in the Province. Hill Tribes.

217. There were 153 schools for tea-garden children against 118 in the year before. Of these schools, 100 belonged to the "C" class. Tea-garden schools.

218. But few serious cases of indiscipline or gross immorality were reported in course of the year. Discipline.

SECTION 3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

[*See* Statistics of British India, Part VII, Educational.]

Publications registered.

219. The total number of publications received and catalogued was 57 against 49 in the preceding year. They are classified below according to the subjects dealt with :—

Biography	3
Dictionary	1
Drama	1
General books and Keys	3
History	1
Mathematics	1
Medicine	1
Miscellaneous	17
Mythology	1
Novel	1
Periodicals	11
Poetry	5
Religion	11
	57

Of these books, 11 were educational and 46 non-educational, 52 were first editions, 4 republications and 1 a translation. Eleven were in Assamese, 24 in Bengal, 4 in Khasi, 1 in Mussalmani-Bengali, 4 in Sylhet-Nagri, 3 in Nagri, 3 in Sanskrit, 1 English-Assamese, 3 Sanskrit-Bengali, 1 Bengali-Cachari, 1 Khasi-Hindustani and 1 in Lushai-Hindustani-English.

Newspapers.

220. Two English, one Anglo-Vernacular and twelve vernacular newspapers, and nine periodicals were published during the year. The tone of the press was generally unobjectionable.

SECTION 4.—SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY SOCIETIES.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

221. The most interesting of the monuments protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, VII of 1904, are the rock inscriptions at the foot of the Kamakhya Hill near Gauhati, the Dargah of Shah Jalal at Sylhet, the copper temple of the Deori Chutiyas near Sadiya, where human sacrifices used to be offered annually, the Kachari ruins at Dimapur, the rock-cut temple at Maibong, and the ruins of the Ahom palaces at Rangpur and Garhgaon, and the temples at Jaisagar and Gaurisagar in the Sibsagar district. The majority of these monuments are maintained by the Public Works Department. Special repairs were carried out by the Public Works Department to the Sibdole and Bishnudole temples at Gaurisagar and Sibsagar respectively and to the Bishnudole temple at Jaisagar.

The Bordole temple at Bishwanath in the district of Darrang, two inscribed stones at Maibong in the district of Cachar, certain masonry remains on the Bamuni Hills, Darrang, and certain sculptures at Tezpur were declared protected monuments during the year. The Bordole temple was erected by the Ahom Raja Gaurinath Singh about 1790A. D. at Bishwanath which was a great religious centre after the conversion of the Ahom Kings to Hinduism. The two inscribed stones at Maibong in the North Cachar Hills record the erection of a stone gate-way by the Kachari King Megha Narayan Deba of the Hachangsa dynasty in Saka 1498 (A.D.-1576). The question of the protection of all unprotected monuments in the province was also considered. The Archæological Department was asked to advise in the matter, but no decision was reached before the close of the year.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

[*See* General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, page 128.]

SECTION 2.—Ecclesiastical.

Ecclesiastical.

222. The Right Rev. H. Pakenham-Walsh was consecrated as the first Bishop in Assam on the 10th January 1915. The Bishop has selected Shillong as his headquarters and has toured extensively in the Province.

The Ecclesiastical establishment of the Province, maintained entirely or in part by this Administration, consists of the chaplaincies of Shillong, Silchar, Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The Chaplain of Shillong visited quarterly the out-stations of Gauhati and Dhubri, and inspected the cemeteries at Cherrapunji and Goalpara. He also paid visits to Kohima and Manipur. The chaplaincy of Darrang has been vacant since June 1912. The Rev. W. E. McFarlane and the Rev. G. V. Kendrick took charge of the vacant chaplaincies of Silchar and Sibsagar on the 12th January and the 13th February 1915, respectively. The services of the Rev. D. H. Gillan, Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland on the Bengal Ecclesiastical establishment, were temporarily transferred to this Province by the Presidency Senior Chaplain, and he held services for about three months in tea gardens in the Assam Valley districts.

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

Stationery.

223. The value of the stationery supplied to the province was Rs. 58,725, including Rs. 12,000 for articles supplied to the Secretariat Press. The value of stationery consumed amounted to Rs. 53,483. There were savings of Rs. 5,242 or about 9 per cent., but the expenditure *per capita* varied considerably in offices of a similar character. With the exception of the Public Works Department, all Departments of the Administration contributed to the savings.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

Printing.

224. Cash receipts of the Secretariat Press rose by Rs. 111 to Rs. 3,400, and expenditure decreased from Rs. 1,13,682 to Rs. 1,11,313. The actual amount paid to workmen exceeded the value of their outturn by Rs. 970. This loss occurred almost entirely under the Press and Machine Branch.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* Report of the Civil Veterinary Department of Assam for 1914-15.]

Staff.

225. The staff of the Department at the end of the year consisted of 38 Veterinary Assistants and three Inspectors remaining, as in the preceding year, less than four-fifths of the sanctioned scale. It was impossible, however, to obtain qualified candidates to fill vacancies and, though five new officers were recruited, four of the existing staff resigned. Stipends are given by Government to students, but only two out of the six persons to whom they were granted remained at the Bengal Veterinary College throughout the year, and of the six Local Board stipendiaries, only one succeeded in passing the class examination. The pay of Veterinary Assistants has been raised and it is hoped that the Department will gradually become more popular.

Cattle-disease.

226. There was a very considerable increase in the number of deaths reported from contagious diseases, the figure rising from 29,471 to 36,230. Much of this increase was, however, probably due to better reporting. The results of inoculation were most successful, only 247 animals dying out of 21,117 inoculated. There was a marked increase in the work done by itinerary assistants who visited 7,533 villages and treated 17,633 animals for contagious and 55,494 for non-contagious diseases.

Stock.

227. The number of stud bulls kept by Government or Local Bodies was extremely small and proposals were formulated for the supply of animals of good quality from the Manipur State, but the scheme could not be financed. The breed of cattle in Assam in certain localities has been considerably improved of recent years by the action of professional graziers and by other means, and further improvement is likely to follow on the introduction of a better strain.

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